**Soil Questions**

Use the notes from class and the following websites (and you can search for others as well) to help you answer the questions below. Please answer in complete sentences on a separate piece of paper.

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/gpe/case2/c2facts1.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soil>

<http://www.soilsofsask.ca/>

<http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/soils.html>

1. What are the main components of soil and the approximate percentage of each in the soil?
2. What is organic matter or humus?  Describe at least four important roles of this material in the soil.
3. In question two you described one of the soil components that you should have listed in your response to question one.  Describe the function of the remaining soil components that you listed in question one.
4. Soils can be classified into different types based colour and on texture.  List and briefly describe the types of soil that exist (based on colour and texture).
5. What types of soils exist in Saskatchewan?  Describe the general location of each type.
6. In which soil zone do you live?
7. What are the main characteristics of the type of soil that exists in your soil zone?
8. Describe how climate can have an influence on the type of soil that exists in a particular area.
9. Describe the important roles that soil microorganisms play.
10. Name some of the types of microorganisms that live in the soil.
11. In a well-structured paragraph describe how the soil is a key to life in Saskatchewan, and on this planet.  (The answer to this question will not come directly from research.  It should be a reflection of your knowledge of the importance of soil.)
12. Describe some ways that human activity affects soil quality and development.