

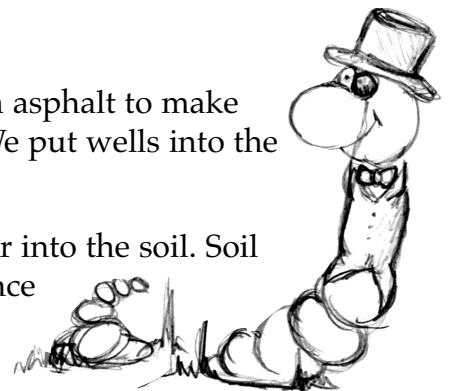
Draw what you think may be next to this farm. It may be a field, your house, a parking lot, a forest or a city.

Soils and Development

When we build on top of the soil, we affect the soil. We cover it with asphalt to make roads and parking lots. We dig basements and put in septic tanks. We put wells into the ground to draw water from the aquifer.

All of these uses mean changes for the soil. Water can no longer filter into the soil. Soil materials that filter water and best grow plants may be removed. Once land is used for building, it is rarely used to grow things again.

The same soil that is best for growing food is often the easiest soil on which to locate buildings.



From Alaska's Awesome Soils, an activity book by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Alaska and the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts.