

**Envirothon Soil Scavenger Hunt**  
at  
**North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences**

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Answer as many questions as you can. You may work in groups.

1. How are sand dunes stabilized?
  
2. What do some of the layers in sand dunes represent?
  
3. Why do salt marshes smell?
  
4. Why are trees in a mountain cove larger than those in the areas next to it?
  
5. Why is the B horizon (subsoil) of an upland piedmont soil red?
  
6. Why do soils in a Savanna have black chunks in the surface layer?
  
7. Why is the A horizon (topsoil) of a soil in a bottomland hardwood swamp (or wetland) black?
  
8. Name 5 critters that live in the soil?
  
9. List at least 3 benefits of wetlands.
  
10. Why do carnivorous plants live where they do?

11. What is the role of fire in Savannas? How can you tell from the soil that there has been a fire?
12. How do Carolina Bays form? What type of soil would you find in the center of a Carolina bay?
13. What makes mountain bogs different from other wetlands in NC?
14. What is typical parent material in the Coastal Plain?
15. What is typical parent material in the Piedmont?
16. What is typical parent material in the Mountains?
17. What does a typical upland soil look like?
18. What does a typical wetland soil look like?
19. What is the name for a soil developed in a wetland?
20. List the 3 general soil regions in North Carolina. (Bonus list all the soil systems in each region)
21. Other than food (crops and other agriculture), fiber (cotton etc) and forest products what product important to NC comes for the soil?
22. What type of soil do you find in a Pocosin?

Answers: email [david\\_lindbo@ncsu.edu](mailto:david_lindbo@ncsu.edu) for answers