

Preventing Erosion

****Remember** – soil erosion is a natural process! But it has been severely impacted by human action. It takes _____ years to form just _____ of topsoil!

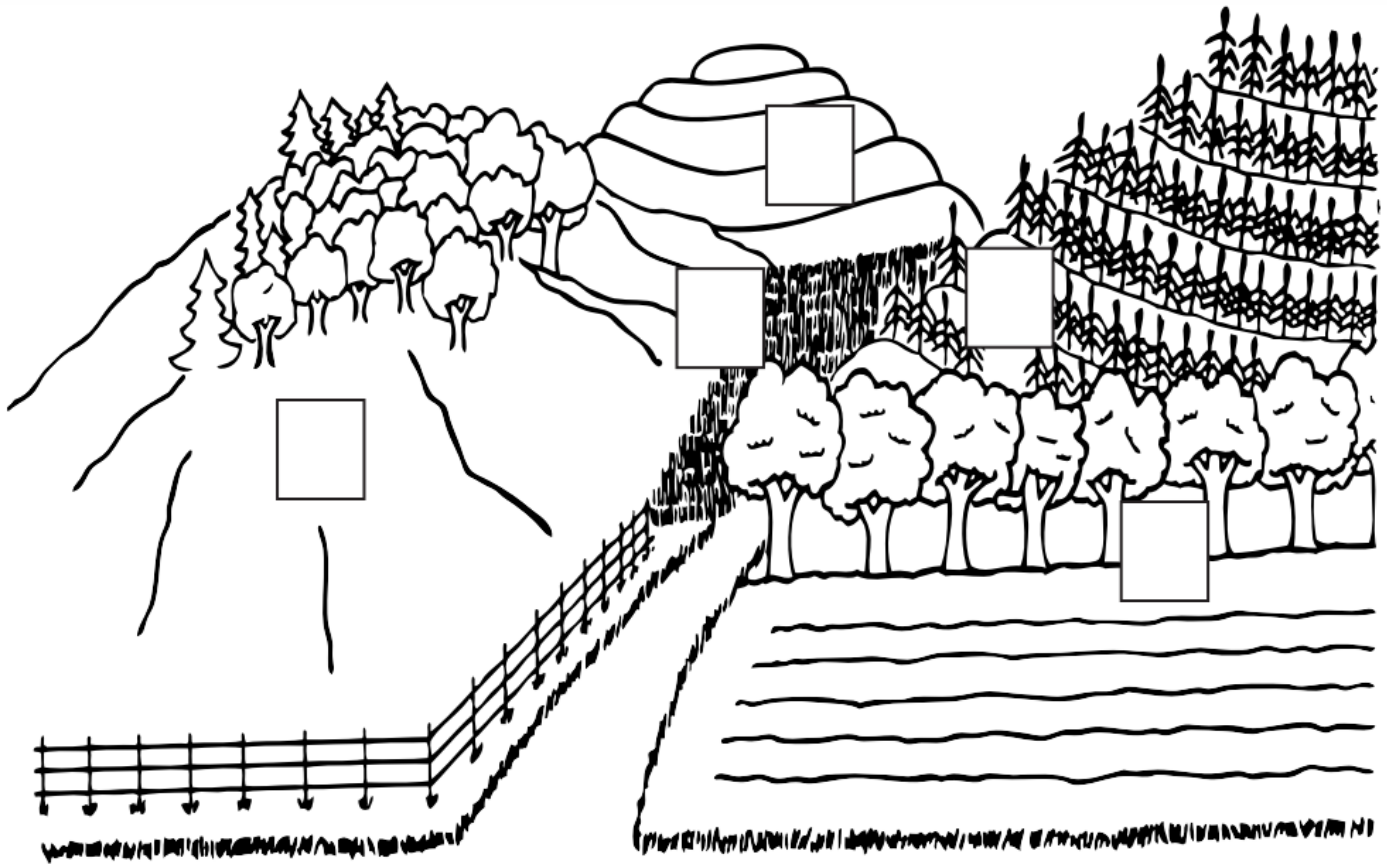
More than _____ of our food comes from soil.

The Importance of Trees

Healthy trees are one of the best ways to prevent erosion. Some of the ways that trees help prevent erosion are:

1. Slow Down / Impede Rainfall Impacts
2. Diminish the amount of water in the soil.
3. Binds the soil together.
4. Reverse nutrition depletion.
5. Obstruct incoming wind.

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Farmers use several methods to conserve soil. Write the number of the practice below in the correct box in the picture.

- 1. Contour Planting:** planting crops around the curve of a hill rather than up and down the hill
- 2. Terraces:** wide ridges that go around a hill to prevent water from rushing down the hill too fast
- 3. Forest and Grass Areas:** steep hillsides are kept covered in trees or grass rather than being cleared for cropland
- 4. Grassed Waterways:** planting grass and not plowing low areas in a field where water usually runs
- 5. Windbreak:** rows of trees planted to slow down the wind and prevent soils from blowing