

How to teach soil in high school and junior high school

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In high school, world soil distribution can be learned in geography class. However, information is not updated by recent knowledge. I hope that education of soil in geography can be more interesting. For example, textbook describes that northern soils include podzol, permafrost soil, and peat soils. However, distribution of these soil types may not co-exist. Podzols typically develop in non-permafrost soils (e.g., Europe) under coniferous forests, permafrost soils are widespread in tundra and forests in the area where ice-sheet did not cover land surface in glacial period (e.g., Alaska, Siberia). We can know news of mammoth emerging from permafrost soil. Peat soils are widespread in flat landscape, irrespective of climate (e.g., Tropical peat). These knowledge need to be educated in systematic way, rather than remembering specific terms. We would also like to report the experience of class about soil in high school.

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