OUTLINE: SOILS

A) Definition
   Surface material produced by weathering of rock which develops horizons and can support plant life

B) Composition
   1. Mineral matter
   2. Organic matter: mull vs. peat
   3. Soil air: O₂, CO₂, N₂
   4. Soil water: storage capacity of soil

C) Soil Characteristics
   1. Color: reds, dark browns, blacks, grays, whites
   2. Texture: loam: sand, silt, clay
   3. Soil structure: platey vs. spheroidal vs. blocky
   4. Soil profile: description of A-Horizon, B-Horizon

D) Soil Chemistry
   1. Clay-Humus Complex
   2. Soil Acidity and Alkalinity

E) Types of Soil Processes
   1. Laterization
   2. Podzolization
   3. Calcification
   4. Salinization

F) Factors that Determine Types of Soils
   1. Climate
   2. Parent Material
   3. Biological Activity – nitrogen fixing bacteria
   4. Landform – slopes
   5. Time
   6. Human Activities