

# KNOW SOIL KNOW LIFE

Think of all the things we need most for daily living: food, clothing, shelter, water. Have you ever considered how each of them, in turn, depends on soil—that without soil, in fact, there would be no life?

Targeted to high schoolers and college students in introductory courses, this 206-page book tells the story of soil through engaging, accessible language and hundreds of full-color photos and illustrations. It begins with a chapter that challenges readers to view soil not as inert “dirt”, but as living material that carries out critical functions for the environment and for people.

*Know Soil Know Life* then takes readers through a traditional sequence of soil science topics, including soil chemistry, biology, and classification, before drawing a direct line between people and soils once again. In chapter 8, “Soil and Society,” the authors describe the impact of soil on human endeavors ranging from art to warfare. The chapter also details soil’s role in the collapse of past civilizations, such as the Easter Islanders, and modern-day concerns like desertification and deforestation.

Lindbo, Robinson and the other contributors to *Know Soil Know Life* are all members of the Soil Science Society of America’s K-12 education committee: a group of college professors, professional soil scientists, and educators who’ve devoted themselves to sharing soil science as widely as possible. Formed in 2006, the committee’s first book project was a text for 4th graders, *SOIL! Get the Inside Scoop*, which goes with the traveling soils exhibit for kids, “Dig It! The Secrets of Soil” (now showing at the Bell Museum in Minneapolis, MN).

The book concludes with a chapter on the soil science careers available in research, land management, education, and environmental consulting—careers that many of today’s soil scientists didn’t learn about until they were almost through school, Robinson says. This includes Deb Kozlowski, a soil scientist and K-12 art teacher who co-edited *Know Soil Know Life* with Dave Lindbo and Clay Robinson.

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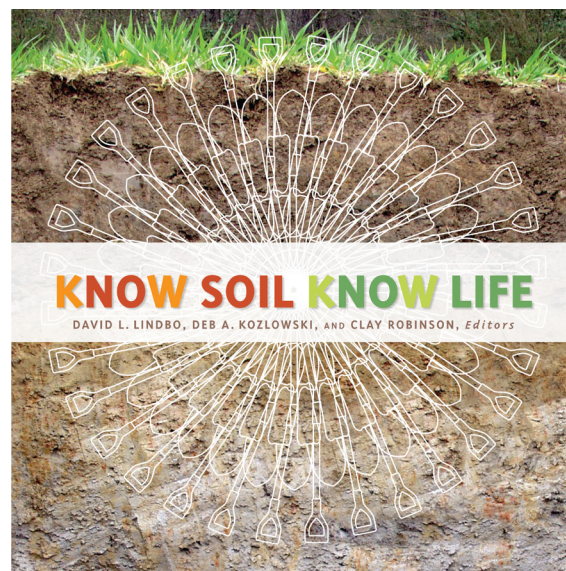
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# SOIL! Get the Inside Scoop



Get kids excited about the living world of soil with this new publication from the Soil Science Society of America.

Written for children aged 9–12, this 36-page, full-color book explores how soil is part of our life—the food we eat, the air we breathe, the water we drink, the houses we live in, and more. Along the way, readers learn about different kinds of soil and meet the scientists who work with soil every day.

Give this book as a gift to a child you know, or buy in bulk for donation to local classrooms, libraries, and after-school programs. It's a wonderful way to share your passion for soils with the next generation of soil scientists.

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“Packed full of fascinating information—provided a unique opportunity for my students to understand the relationship of soil to their personal health and well being. A must-have for the class library or for any parent who wants to connect their child to Earth stewardship.”

—Julie Rosen, 4th Grade Teacher, Woods Charter School, Chapel Hill, NC



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