



ENVIS HUB JAMMU & KASHMIR

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY ENVIRONMENT & REMOTE SENSING

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR



WORLD SOIL DAY

5TH DECEMBER, 2020

THEME: Keep soil alive, Protect soil biodiversity

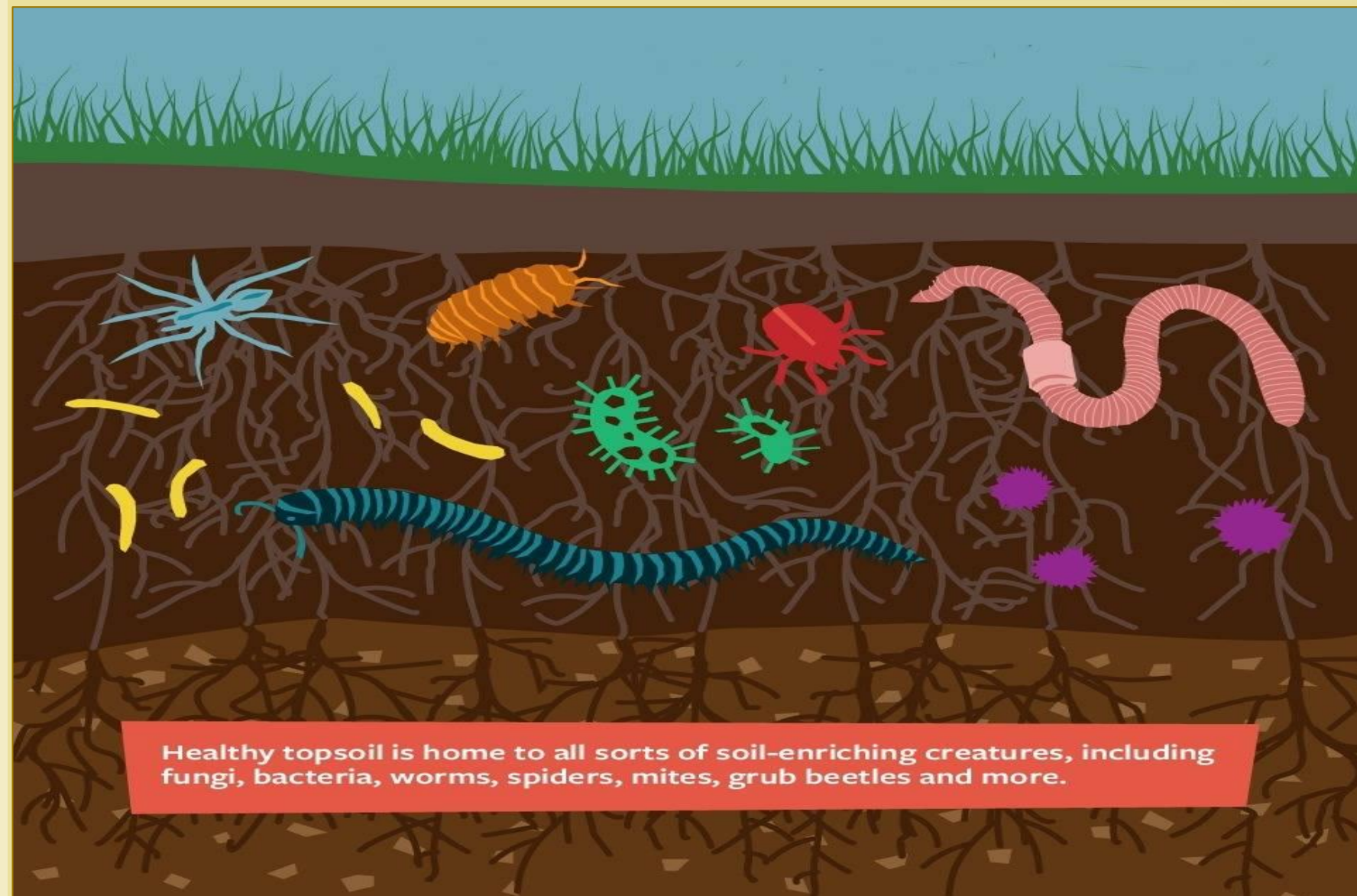


Key Messages

- Soil is a living resource, home to more than one quarter (25%) of our planet's biodiversity.
- Up to 90% of living organisms live or spent part of their lifecycle in soils, yet we know only 1% of this hidden universe.
- Soil organisms work 365/24/7 in a coordinated effort to sustain life on Earth.
- Soil biodiversity is an essential component of soil health. Healthy soils produces more nutritious and safer food. 95% of our food comes from soils.
- Soils organisms help soils store carbon and reduce GHG emissions.
- Soil biodiversity contributes to the remediation of soil pollution by breaking down contaminants.
- Soils are vast, vital pharmacies. Did you know that almost all of the antibiotics that we take to help us fight infections were made using soil micro-organisms?

Fun Facts

- ❑ In just 3 inches of soil, there are 13 quadrillion living organisms, weighing 100 million tonnes.
- ❑ One hectare of soil contains the weight equivalent of two cows of bacteria.
- ❑ There are more organisms in one gram of healthy soils than there are people on Earth.
- ❑ An earthworm can digest its own weight in soil every 24 hours. 50% of the planet soil passes through the gut of earthworms each year.
- ❑ Soil organisms process 25,000 kg of organic matter in a surface area equivalent to a soccer field, which is the weight of 25 cars.



Healthy topsoil is home to all sorts of soil-enriching creatures, including fungi, bacteria, worms, spiders, mites, grub beetles and more.

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