

**biological weathering**—any weathering that's caused by the activities of living organisms.

**biotic**—living or derived from living things.

**B layer**—a soil horizon; B receives the minerals and organic materials that are leached out of the A horizon.

**chemical weathering**—the result of chemical interaction with the bedrock that is typical of the action of both water and atmospheric gases.

**C layer**—a soil horizon, horizon C is made up of larger pieces of rock that have not undergone much weathering.

**clay**—the finest soil, made up of particles that are less than 0.002 mm in diameter.

**conduction**—the transmission or conveying of something through a medium or passage, especially the transmission of electric charge or heat through a conducting medium without perceptible motion of the medium itself.

**convection**—the vertical movement of a mass of matter due to heating and cooling; this can happen in both the atmosphere and Earth's mantle.

**convection currents**—air currents caused by the vertical movement of air due to atmospheric heating and cooling.

**convergent boundary**—a plate boundary where two plates are moving toward each other.

**coral reef**—an erosion-resistant marine ridge or mound consisting chiefly of compacted coral together with algal material and biochemically deposited magnesium and calcium carbonates.

**Coriolis effect**—The observed effect of the Coriolis force, especially the deflection of an object moving above the Earth, rightward in the Northern Hemisphere, and leftward in the Southern Hemisphere.

**crop rotation**—the practice of alternating the crops grown on a piece of land—for example, corn one year, legumes for two years, and then back to corn.

**delta**—a usually triangular alluvial deposit at the mouth of a river.

**divergent boundary**—a plate boundary at which plates are moving away from each other. This causes an upwelling of magma from the mantle to cool and form new crust.

**doldrums**—a region of the ocean near the equator, characterized by calms, light winds, or squalls.

**dormant volcanoes**—volcanoes that have not been known to erupt.

**drip irrigation**—a method of supplying irrigation water through tubes that literally drip water onto the soil at the base of each plant.