

by wind etc. Hooves of animals break the soil and thus assist soil erosion. The role of earthworms and termites is of special significance. According to scientists, there is a possibility of occurrence of about 1,50,000 earthworms in an acre and they can convert 10 to 15 tonnes of rock mass into good soil and bring it to the surface.

(c) Man

Human beings play a very important role in weathering of various rocks. Man breaks a large amount of rocks in the course of his activities, like agriculture, construction of houses, roads etc. He quarries for mining minerals, thus helps in weathering by breaking, weakening and loosening the rocks.

- Biotic agents like plants, animals and man also contribute to physical and chemical weathering.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 2.7**

1. Which important matter is formed by weathering?
(a) _____ (b) _____ (c) _____
2. Where does humus in soils come from?

3. Give examples of two activities of man helping in weathering.
(a) _____ (b) _____ (c) _____

2.9 WEATHERING AND SOIL

We have studied the process of weathering and have learnt how different types of land features are produced in areas of different types of climate through this process. Weathering also plays an important role in formation of soil which provides basis for agriculture and world's food supply.

Mechanical weathering of the surface rocks disintegrates the rock and converts it into a fine powder. These small particles are deposited in layers with the help of water. biotic weathering produces humus. This organic matter is formed through the action of plants and animals which helps in the formation of soil. Various processes of weathering help in giving different colours and properties of soil.

