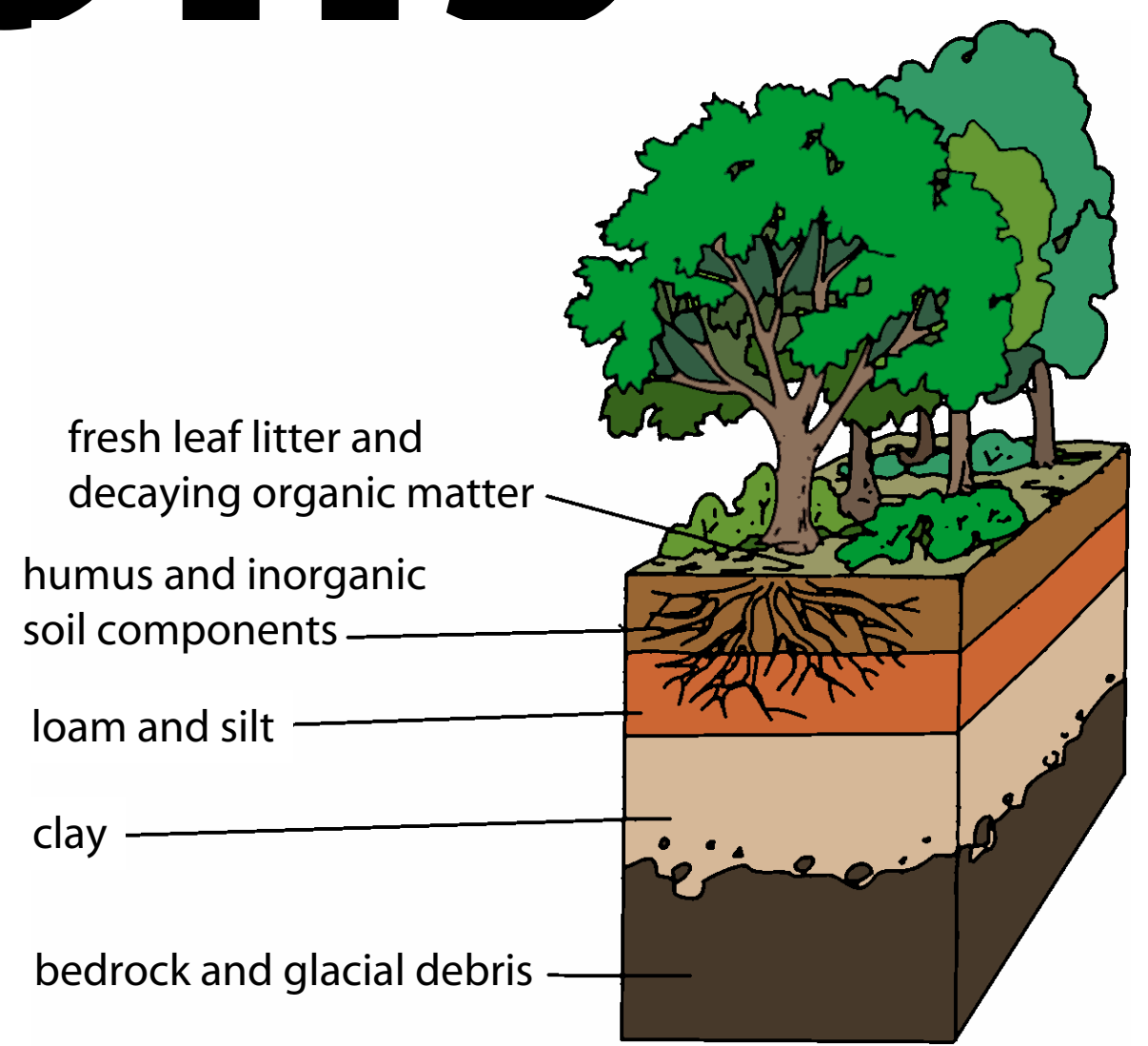


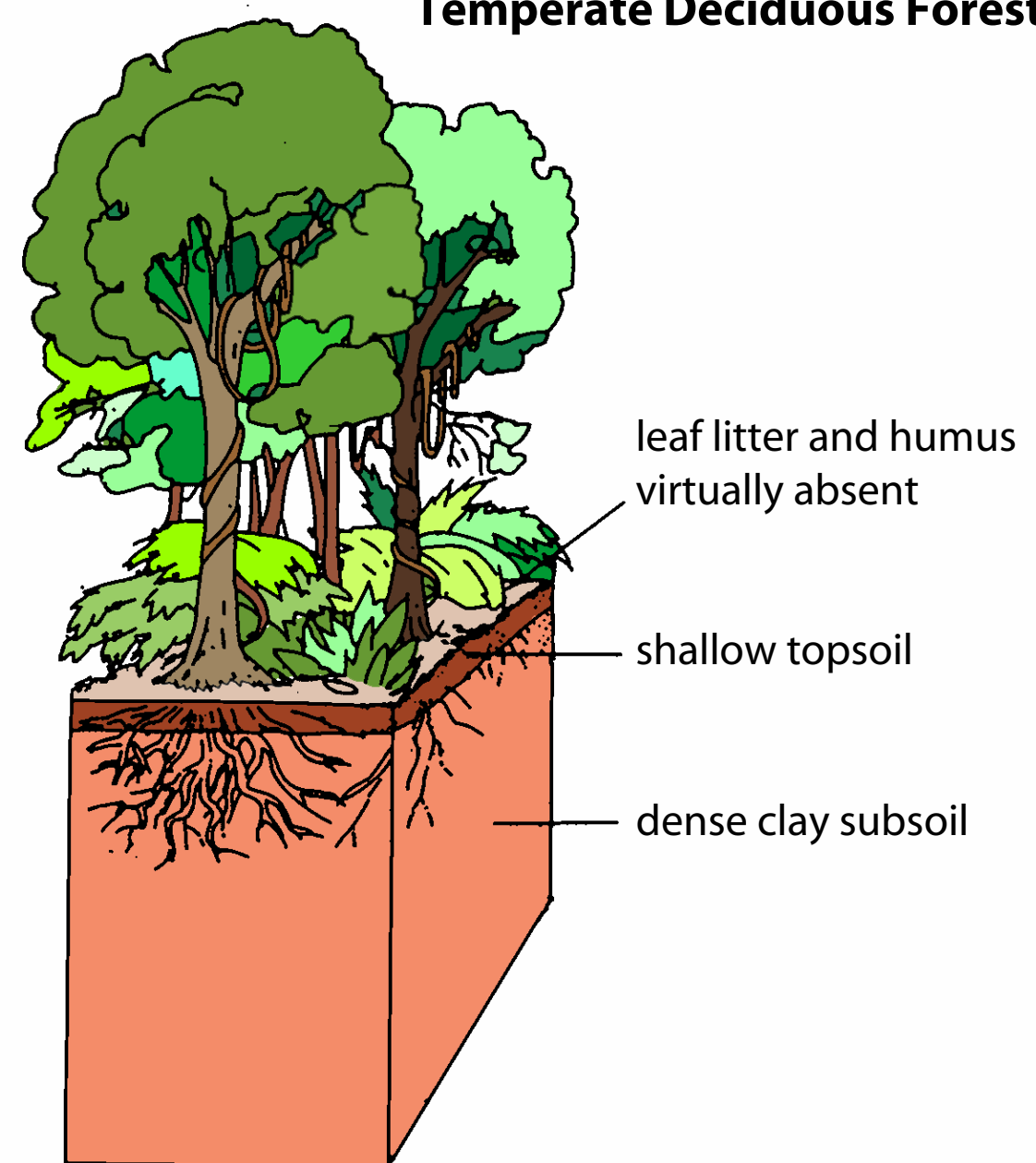
poor soils

Rainforest plants have unique adaptations for gathering and retaining nutrients from nutrient poor soils. Tropical rainforest trees grow dense shallow root systems to absorb and retain nutrients. Tropical rainforest trees (and most other plants of the world) are also very dependent on certain fungi growing in and around their roots that help the plants to better absorb nutrients. This relationship is called *mycorrhizae*.

Why are tropical rainforest soils poor? Temperate deciduous forests have rich, productive soils. In tropical rainforests, high temperatures and moisture promote rapid decomposition of forest litter. Then frequent rains leach the nutrients from the soil.



Temperate Deciduous Forest



Tropical Rainforest



Biotrek

rich forests