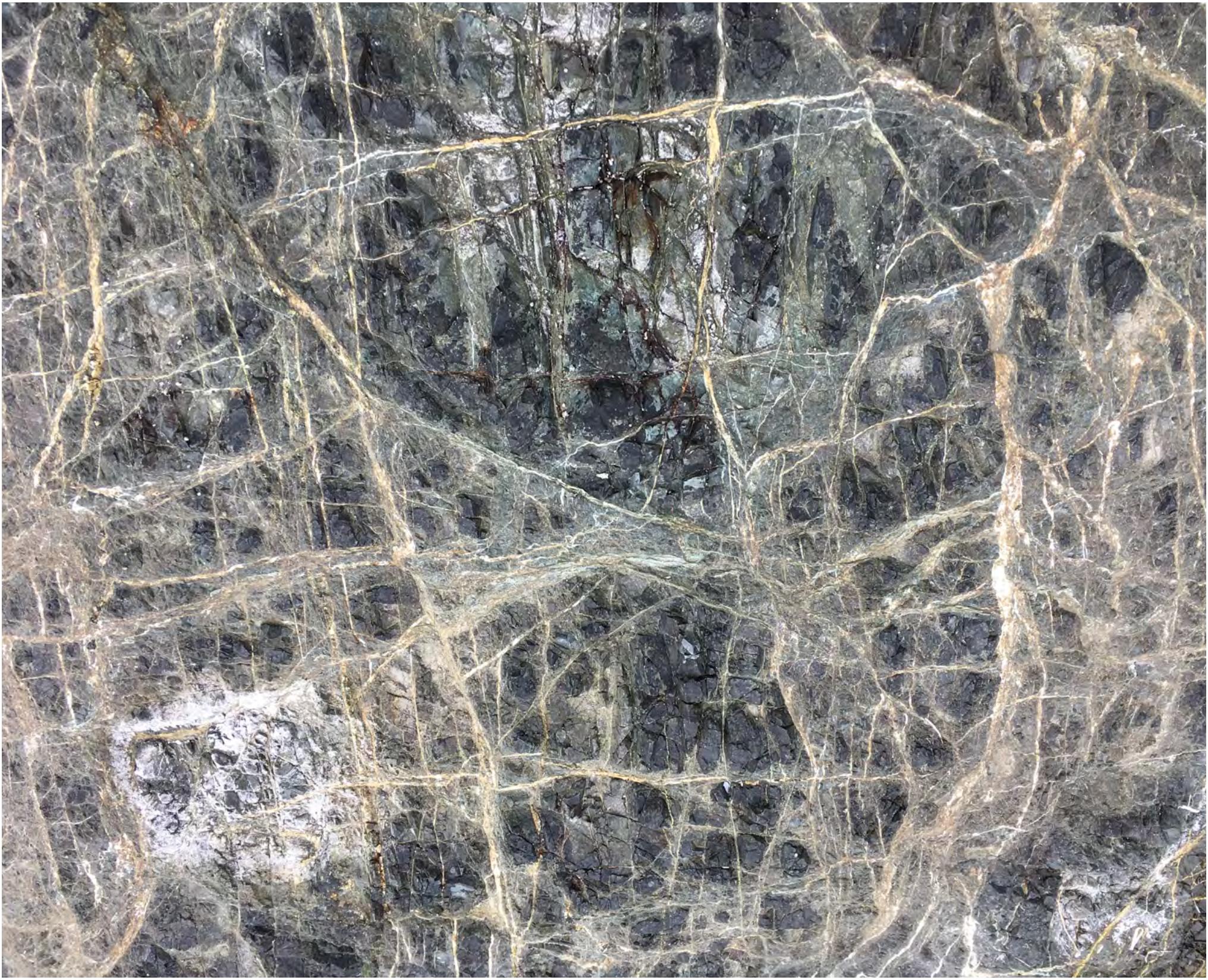


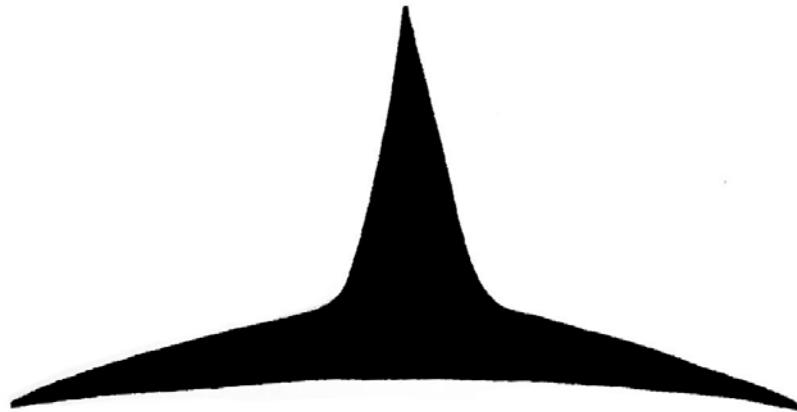


Soil

A Healthy Forest Begins



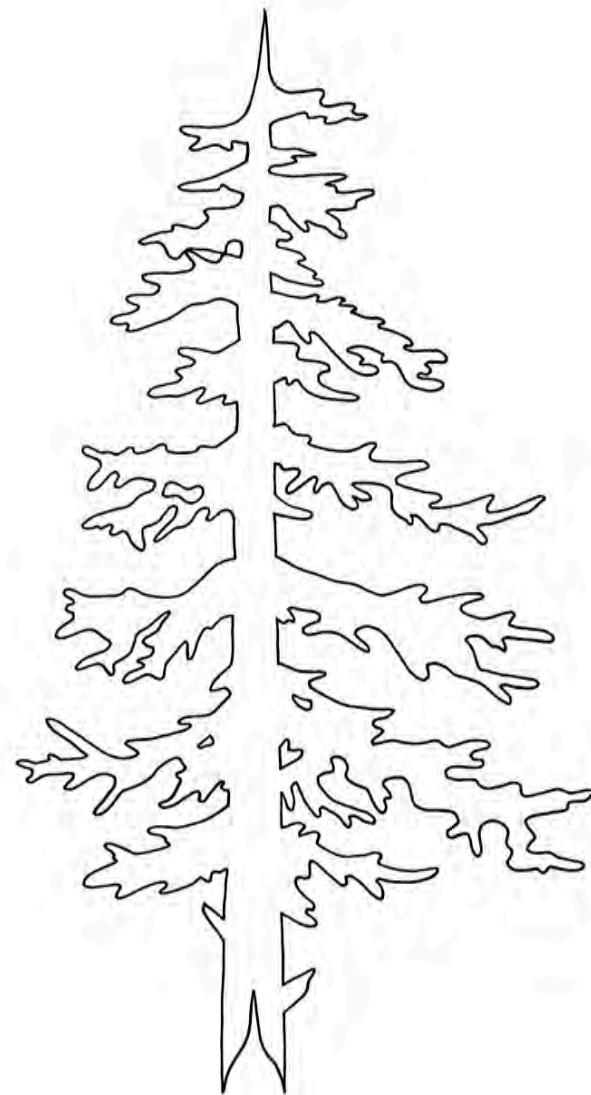
A Kwiakah-led initiative to support early childhood education.

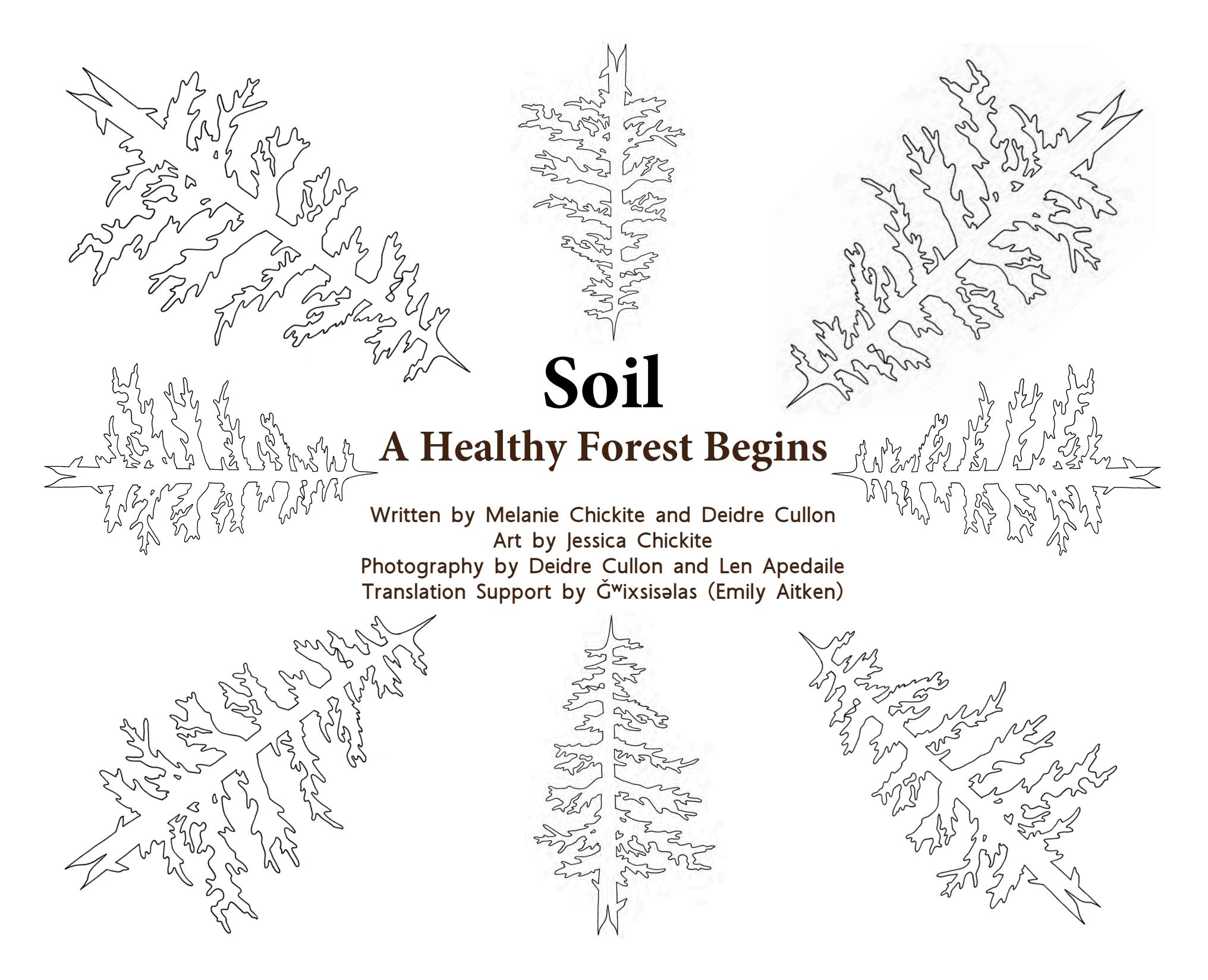


The Kwiakah Nation gratefully
acknowledges the financial support of the
BC Aboriginal Childcare Society.

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To all Lig^{wił}dax^w children, our future stewards.





Soil

A Healthy Forest Begins

Written by Melanie Chickite and Deidre Cullon

Art by Jessica Chickite

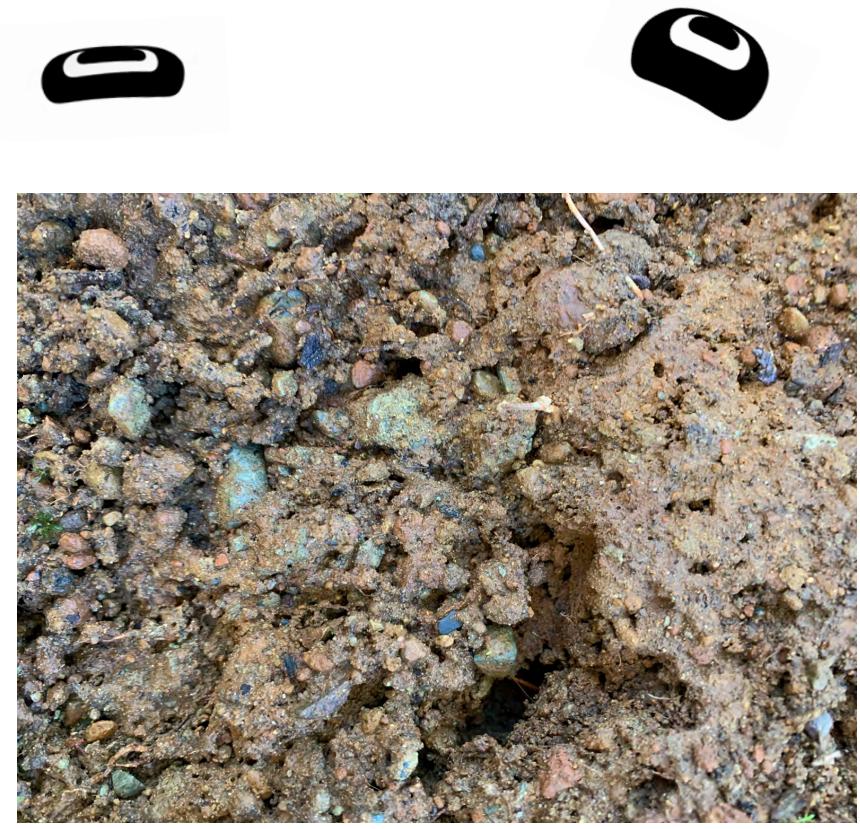
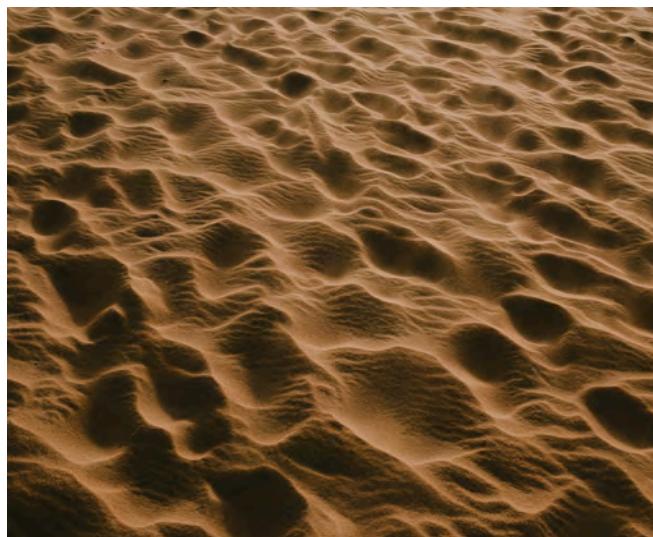
Photography by Deidre Cullon and Len Apedaile

Translation Support by Č̌wixsíslas (Emily Aitken)



The Soil

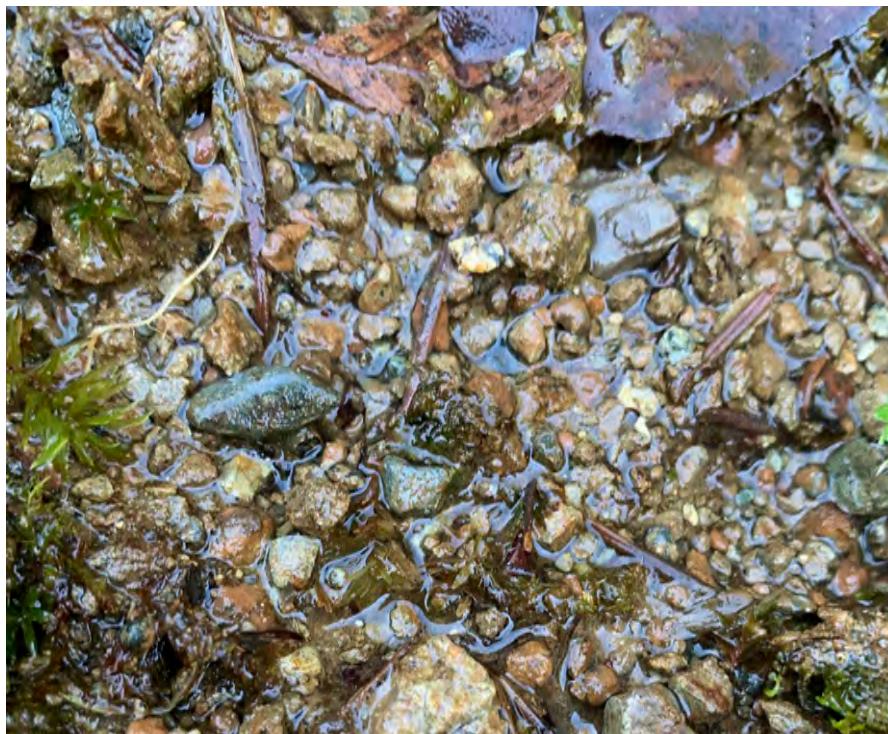
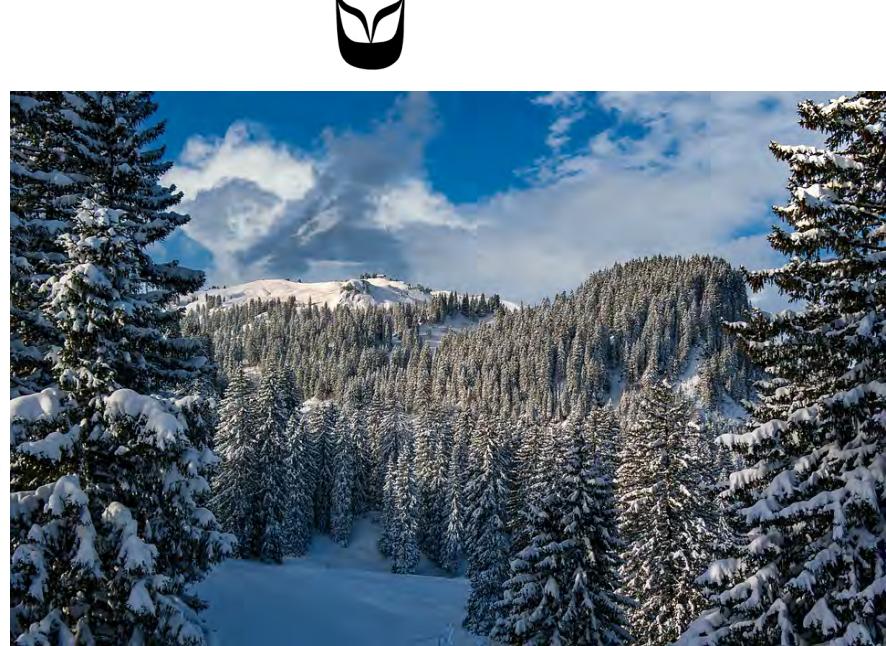
Imagine you are digging through the forest soil. What do you see?



Dirt

TeVka

The soil in the forest is loose, soft, crumbly and moist. It is filled with sand, clay, silt and rocks.

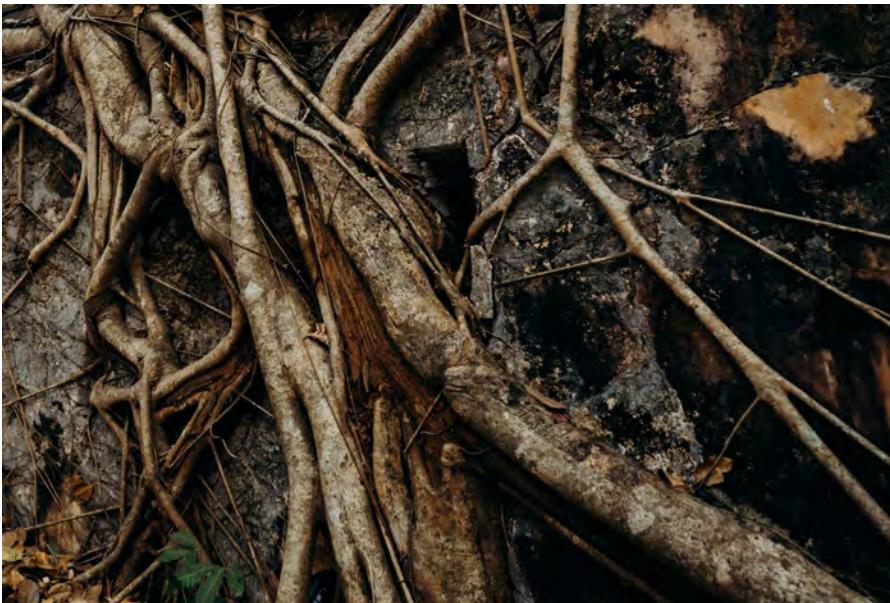
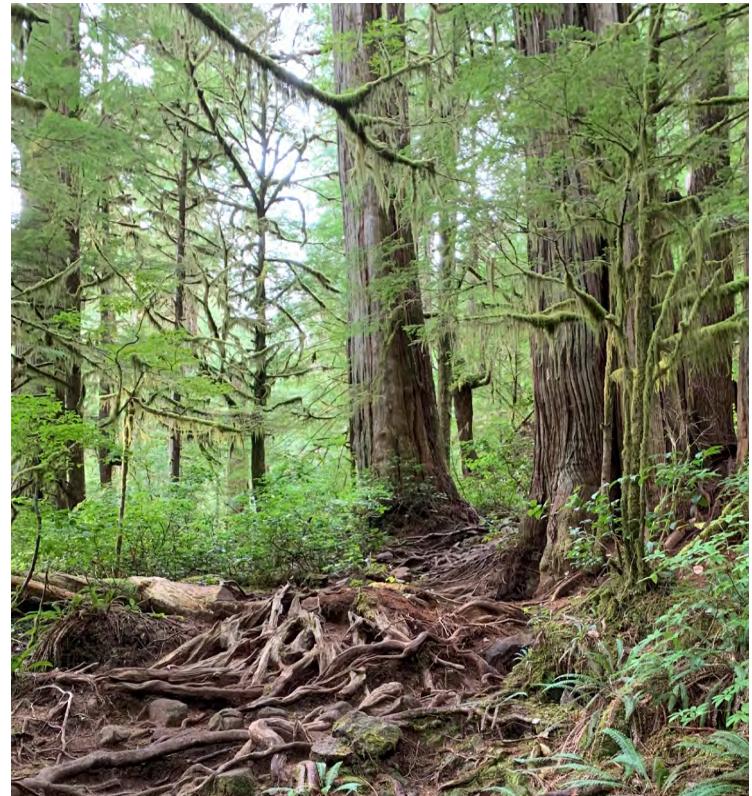


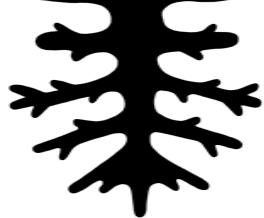
Water

Wap

Soil also includes water. Water comes from rain, snow, dew and frost.

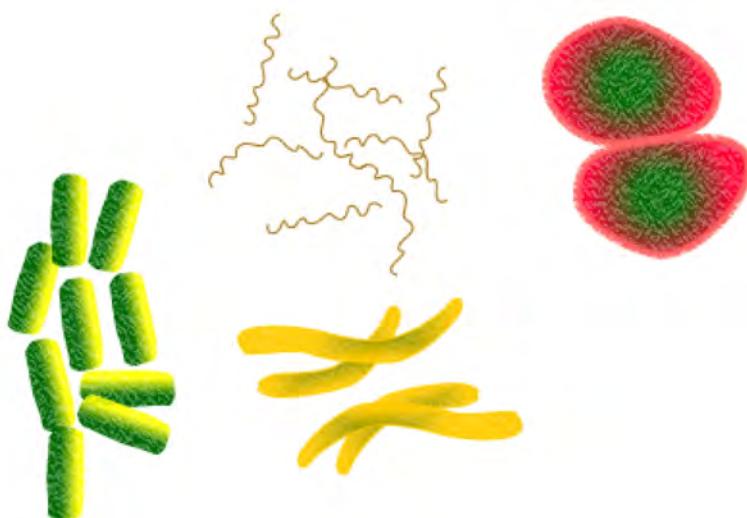
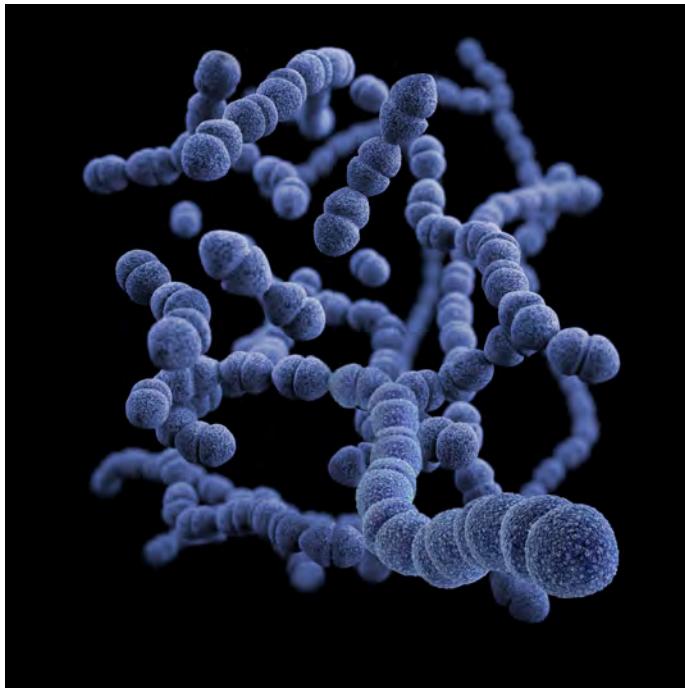




Roots 

ƛ̕up̕ək

Roots grow in the soil. Redcedar roots are shallow and feed on the surface while fir trees have deep taproots that look for water.



Microorganisms

Microorganisms like fungi and bacteria are widespread in nature and are beneficial to life. They help breakdown forest humus.



Humus

Humus is the top layer of the soil. It is formed by the decomposition of leaves, needles and other plant material. Humus is full of nutrients.





Worms

Qaławē

Worms help break down dead leaves, grass and other organic matter. They keep the soil loose and when they eat they leave castings, which are full of nutrients!



Grubs

Grubs eat old tree roots, dead grass roots and rotting leaves that are decaying in the soil. They will later become beetles or other insects.



Ants

Ḵadzalači

Ants can tunnel through the soil, keeping it loose and letting water flow. Ants are also part of the world recycling crew. Western thatching ants live on Vancouver Island. They build nests as big as 2 meters high!



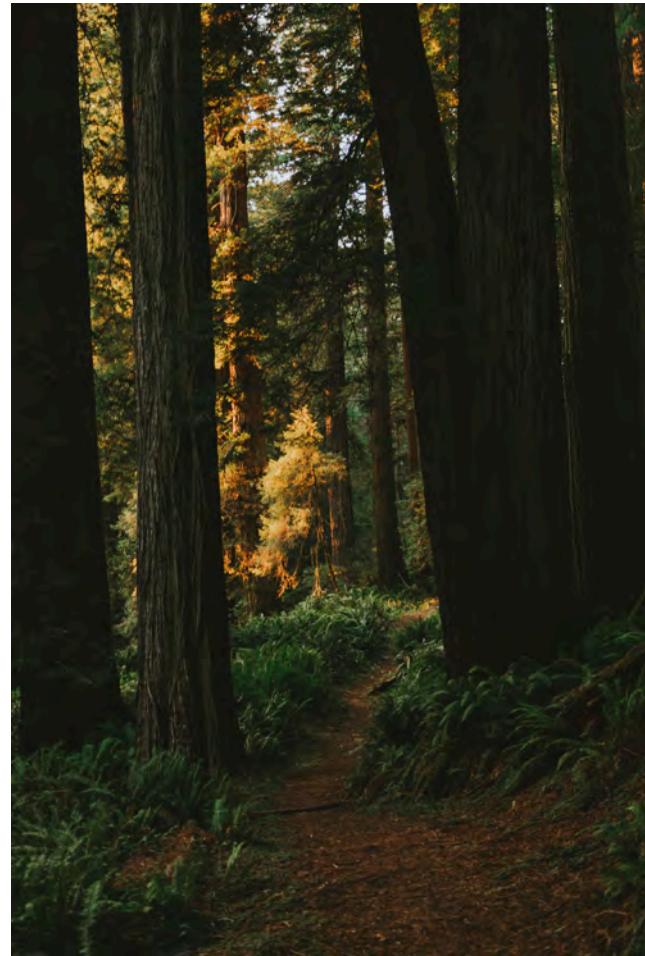
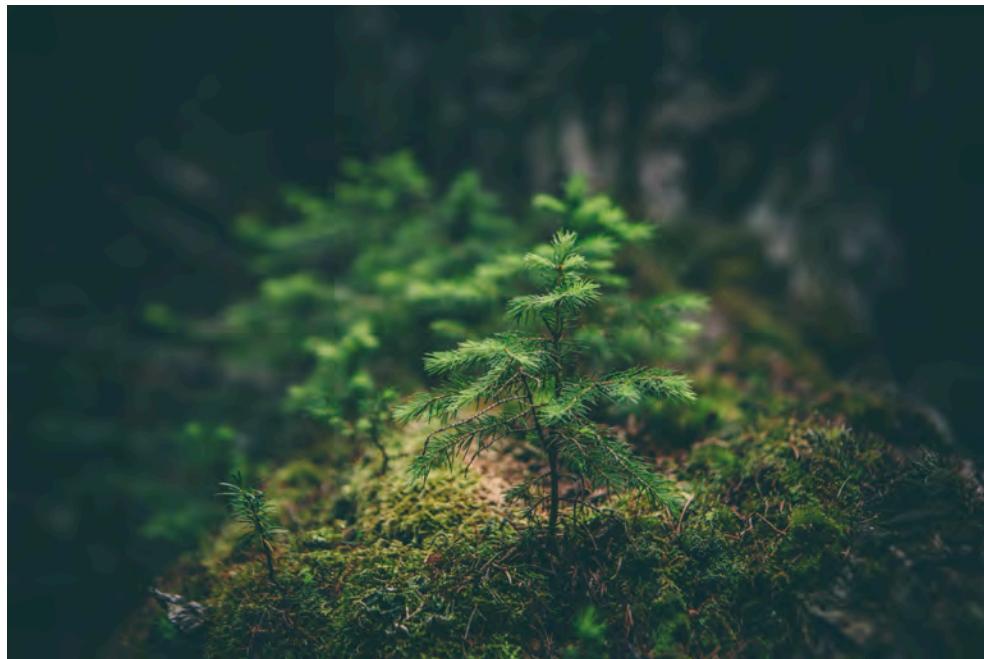
Mouse Dens

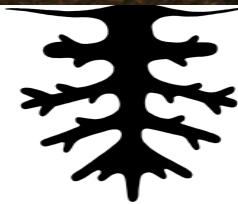


Xʷəp̓əs Gigəyacağa (mouse hole)

Mice and other rodents dig small holes to create burrows in the ground for nesting and hiding.





Soil... A stylized, branching symbol representing soil or a tree root system. It consists of a central vertical line with several horizontal branches extending from it, resembling a root system or a network of veins.

Is food for the forest and home to all kinds of life.







Soil

Imagine you are tiny and go into the forest soil. What do you see? What is in the soil?

Why is soil so important for a healthy forest?

