

The documentary *Dirt* is about just that, dirt. The film explores topsoil as well as our effect on it. Top soil is basically just the first few inches of soil in which we are able to plant things in. Some of the best topsoil can be found in the Amazon rainforest. However, this soil is being depleted, and rendered useless and disappearing. Not all hope is lost though. In our own homes there are things we can do to help replenish the land we live on. For starters, planting more trees will help replenish the top layer of soil. When the leaves fall off the tree, they decompose and turn into new soil. Additionally, if we clean up trash in our area, it is going to help improve the quality of all living, not just the dirt. Finally, decreasing chemical use on our land will make the environment as a whole healthier.

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3/15/16

After watching the film "Dirt" I realized the true beauty of dirt itself. I began to think about how important dirt is, to all living life. Only two inches on average cover the entire earth. And in those two inches of dirt lives bacteria, algae, fungi and protozoa. A billion organisms can live in just one square inch of soil. Dirt can be said to be more alive than we are. It's very important that we preserve the layer of top soil because it provides the nutrients necessary to grow healthy plants. As well as provide for the many organisms that depend on soil.

After watching the film 'Dirt', some of the things that I believe I can implement into my academic and personal lives in order to preserve the Earth's topsoil are volunteer in removing concrete from abandoned urban lots, convert said lots into urban gardens, planting native plants in my garden to encourage nutrient cycling, support the replanting of plants and trees in Poly's 'Quad', and helping to reduce the amount of dumping and littering in my area.

A Andrew Grier