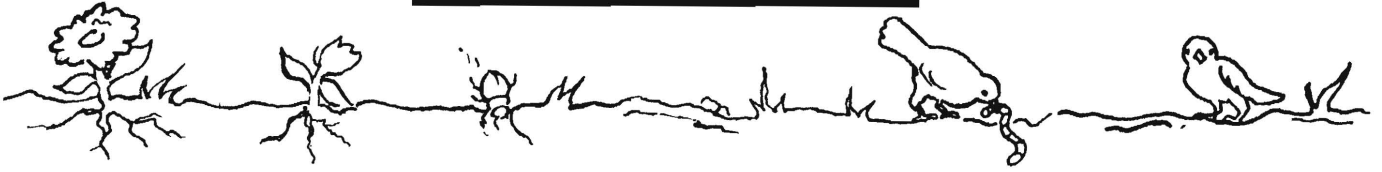


SECTION II



Who Uses Soil?

Overview

The study of geography suggests relationships among elements of the natural world. Moving water, weather, erosion, and gravity resculpt the land. Over the years, glaciers, volcanoes, fires, hurricanes, and earthquakes have also reshaped the Earth's surface, moving materials from one place to another. Two natural forces are continuously at work on the landscape—the forces of destruction and the forces of construction. In locations of destruction, the material that is lost through natural events must go somewhere else, and landforms are constructed. The landscape is continually developing.

When humans work the land, for agriculture, home building, and road construction, we change the landscape to fit our purposes. Land use involves manipulating the landscape and its components—the



soil, rocks, and vegetation. Humans change the land but differently than how nature changes the land.