

**Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations, by David R. Montgomery**  
**Google Earth QUEST – Terms, Locations, Names**  
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## **Chapter 1 – Good Old Dirt**

- **Terminology:** soil, dirt, soil degradation, Dust Bowl, soil fertility, topsoil, soil exhaustion, agriculture
- **Locations:** Mount Pinatubo, Philippines, African Sahel, Mississippi River Basin, Caribbean
- **Names:** (none)

## **Chapter 2 – Skin Of The Earth**

- **Terminology:** terrarium, istostasy, clay, tilling, soil horizons, agronomist
- **Locations:** England, Appalachian Mountains
- **Names:** Charles Darwin

## **Chapter 3 – Rivers Of Life**

- **Terminology:** Ice Age, climate, glaciations, Quaternary, Younger Dryas, hydrologist, delta, floodplain, Neanderthals, *Homo erectus*
- **Locations:** North Africa, Middle East, Mediterranean Sea, Mesopotamia, Mesoamerica, Zagros Mountains, Abu Hureyra in Syria, Euphrates Valley, Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, Persian Gulf, Egypt, Nile River, China, Yellow River
- **Names:** Walter Lowdermilk

## **Chapter 4 – Graveyard Of Empires**

- **Terminology:** The Bronze Age, fallow, Neolithic, deforestation, crop rotation, cash crop, Phoenicians, Mayans, Old World, New World
- **Locations:** Central America, Greece, Athens, Sicily, Italy, Rome, Lebanon, Yucatán Peninsula, Peru
- **Names:** George Perkins Marsh

## **Chapter 5 – Let Them Eat Colonies**

- **Terminology:** Iron Age, radiocarbon dating, Black Death, yeoman, soil husbandry, Middle Ages, Industrial Revolution, famine
- **Locations:** Guatemala, Germany, Danube River, Rhine River, Po River/Valley
- **Names:** James Hutton, Reverend Thomas Malthus

## **Chapter 6 – Westward Hoe**

- **Terminology:** slash-and-burn agriculture
- **Locations:** Carajás Plateau
- **Names:** Charles Lyell, U.S. Soil Conservation Service

## **Chapter 7 – Dust Blow**

- **Terminology:** global warming
- **Locations:** Ethiopia
- **Names:** John Deere, Major John Wesley Powell, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Wangari Maathai

## **Chapter 8 – Dirty Business**

- **Terminology:** legumes, guano, phosphate, alkali soils, phosphorus, nitrogen, ammonia, monoculture, organic farming, no-till farming
- **Locations:** New Zealand
- **Names:** Walter Mallory, Eugene Hilgard, Norman Borlaug, Sir Albert Howard, Edward Faulkner, Rodale Institute

## **Chapter 9 – Islands In Time**

- **Terminology:** Polynesia, soil escarpment
- **Locations:** Easter Island, Mangaia Island, Tikopia Island, Iceland, Haiti, Cuba
- **Names:** (none)

## **Chapter 10 – Life Span Of Civilization**

- **Terminology:** (none)
- **Locations:** (none)
- **Names:** (none)