

The world our shoes tread on – science of the soil and a fascinating journey to a well-nigh unknown habitat



Peter Laufmann

Soil

[Der Boden]

The universe beneath our feet

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Peter Laufmann studied forestry and journalism. He was an editor of the environmental magazine *natur+kosmos* and contributes to various media.

Peter Laufmann takes readers down into the depths. Only a few centimetres from the soles of our shoes is the beginning of a cosmos that is as alien to us as a sealed capsule, with a unique climate and mysterious inhabitants.

In addition to the theoretical aspects (prehistory, geophysics, chemistry, hydrology, etc.), he describes the soil as a habitat and portrays people who are professional soil experts, such as gardeners, farmers and construction workers. Laufmann demonstrates how essential the soil is to us, how vulnerable it is and how we human beings are competing for this important natural resource. He also shows us what we can do to preserve it.