The purpose of this paper is to illustrate one example of the benefits that can be derived from using soil information and maps in intensive interdisciplinary studies. Archaeology is a science which helps man learn more about himself in his origins. Soil science can contribute to archaeology by providing data about soil properties in the environment that influenced ancient man. These cooperative studies become increasingly relevant in planning, because the trends of the past provide data which can be used to help predict the future.

A brief description of Sardis is given in footnote 4. Figure 1 locates the archaeological excavations in relation to the topography. Soils were described, sampled, and mapped around the Lydian, Greek, Roman, and Byzantine ruins in a cooperative project of the Archaeological Exploration of Sardis, sponsored by Cornell University and the Fogg Art Museum of Harvard University. One hundred and seven soil samples were collected along with soil profile descriptions from about 55 sites to characterize the soils and their archaeological and historical significance. A soil map of the central city area was made at a scale of 1:2,000 on a base map with a contour interval of five meters. Samples were analyzed by the soil fertility laboratory at Cornell University and by the laboratory of the Soil and Fertilizer Research Institute in Ankara.

In Figure 1, the valley to the north is occupied mainly by soils formed in alluvial sediments. Point 5 on the map marks the location of a large Roman building now