

# Soil Investigation

## Concepts and Objectives

- Student will investigate and understand that soil can be classified into types according to size of particles, compactibility, and color.
- Use four senses to analyze soil.
- Student will draw conclusions about the relationship of soil attributes and its value to plants and animals.



**SOLs covered: K.1-5.1, 3.7, 4.8**

## Activities

1. Group brainstorms questions about soil and records individually or as a group. Discuss how questions might be answered (strategies).
2. Small groups choose a spot in the schoolyard. Each child in the group adds a scoop of soil to the group's bag. Label where it was collected.
3. Each group pours their bag of soil on paper. Observe the soil with magnifying glasses.
4. Record observations - describe what you see (color, size, particle uniformity . . .).
5. Predict compactibility: "If you wanted to sculpt a pot from this soil would it stick together, partially stick, or completely crumble?" Test by trying to create a ball of soil.
6. Fill cup or jar 3/4 full of water. Add some soil and stir or shake it. Observe the settling process and record observations. How long did it take the soil to settle? What settled first, last? What does this demonstrate about particle size?
7. Discuss differences in compactibility, particle size, and color and the relationship of these attributes to plant growth, erosion, etc.

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