



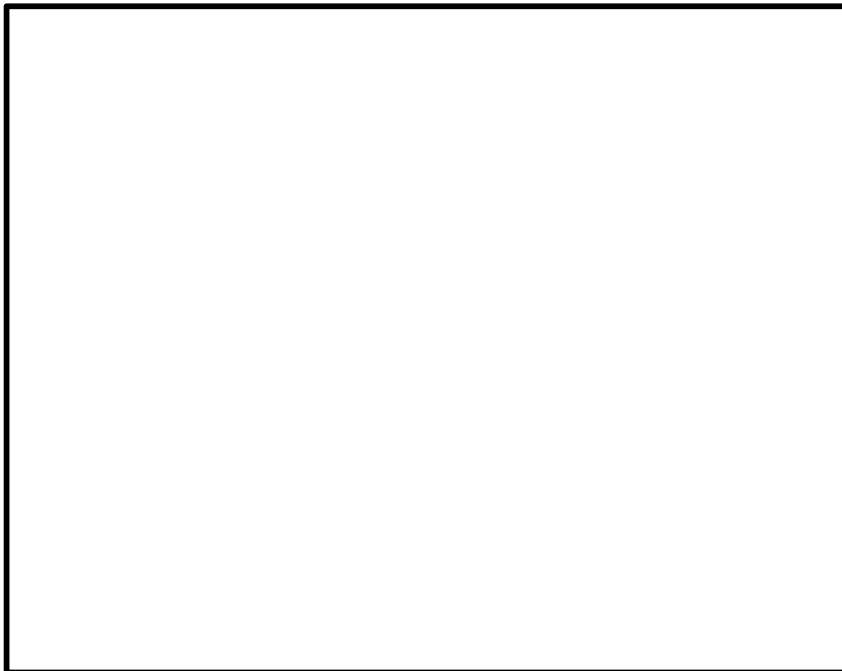
Become a DIRT (soil) DETECTIVE!

Soil is the *OFFICIAL* name for plain old dirt!

First, Go outdoors...

Scoop out some soil and sit down with it. Use your fingers or a stick to sort through it:

1. **Sand** is made of tiny bits of **rock**. Can you find sand in your soil sample?
2. Does your soil have much clay? **Clay** is sticky and sticks together; it also feels moist.
3. How many **living creatures** can you find?
4. Did you know most living organisms in soil are so tiny we can't see them without a microscope?
5. **Draw** the things you found in your soil. It's okay to use your imagination.



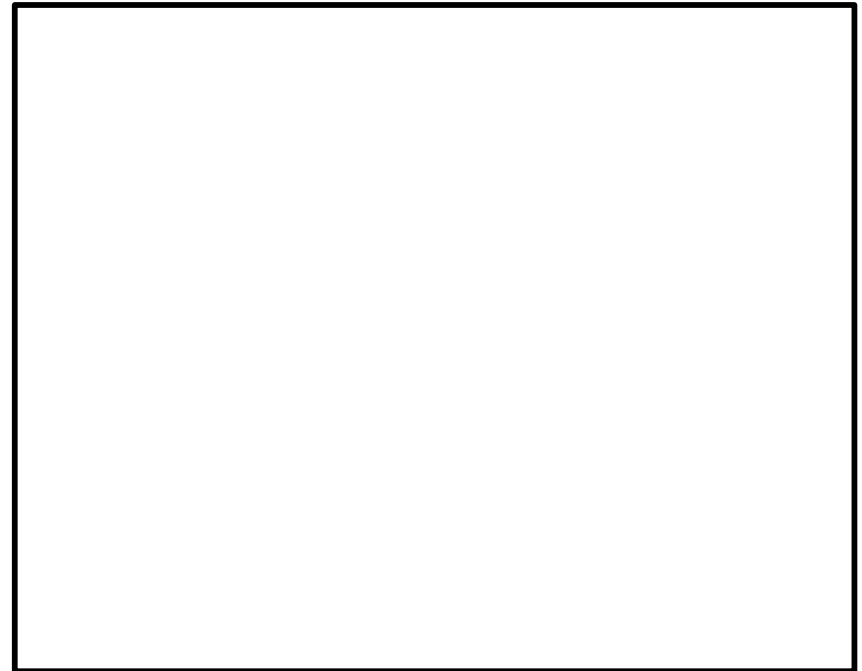
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Experiment: Make a Sediment Jar!

1. Fill a clean clear jar 3/4 with water.
2. Add a big scoop of soil to the water.
3. Put the lid on and shake it up!
4. Place the jar in a sunny spot and watch **sediment layers** form.
5. Go back to the things you found in your first scoop of soil, and use that to figure out what you're seeing in your jar:
 - Can you see any clay or sand?
6. Check back in an hour. Write down what happens each time you check your experiment.



Healthy soil is important for all kinds of plants, but especially if you're growing fruits and vegetables. You can find these things in healthy garden soil:

- Earth worms
- Sand** – tiny rock pieces
- Humus** – black soil & plant material
- A little **clay** – sticky and easily molded
- Lots of open spaces for **water and air**

Here's a read-aloud story about SOIL...*Diary of a Worm*

by Doreen Cronin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9y6MtlI5b0w>

Joke: What did the carrot say to the onion?

*answer below



For more nature activities,
www.nextstepadventure.com



Answer: Nothing! Carrots and onions don't talk.

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