

Soil Studies

A Silver River Museum Hands-on Lesson



- ◇ View the Silver River Museum video, *Soil Studies*, found at <https://youtu.be/NVEzQa72n-A>
- ◇ Complete the hands-on activity along with the video.
- ◇ While watching the video, fill out the sheet below.
- ◇ You may need to pause the video or watch parts of it more than once.

1. Describe the spot where you got your soil.

2. What is in your soil? Circle everything that you see. Use the 2 blank boxes to add other things you see.

beetle	dead leaf	large rocks
worm	dead insect	small rocks
sand		

3. Worms help create soil by

- a. eating dead plants and animals.
- b. creating holes in the ground.
- c. being good fishing bait.



4. This cup shows how much water you have before pouring it over the soil.



Predict-What will happen to the amount of water after you pour it over the soil?

<p>a. I predict the cup will have the <u>same amount</u> of water.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>	<p>b. I predict the cup will have <u>more</u> water.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>	<p>c. I predict the cup will have <u>less</u> water.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>
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5. Explain how is soil like a sponge?

6. Why is it important to plants that soil is like a sponge?

7. Record what your jar looks like after leaving it for at least 1 hour.

Label each layer that you see using the descriptions below.

- **Rocks & Gravel**-Some soil has rocks and gravel that are large enough to see. Eventually these rocks will break apart and become sand. Depending on the type of rock, it may sink to the bottom, or float to the top.
- **Sand**- Sand is made of tiny bits of rock. Sand will sink to the very bottom.
- **Silt**-Made up of smaller bits of sand and dead plants and animals. This layer will be on top of the sand.
- **Clay**-The smallest particles of soil. Clay is made of very small bits of rock. This layer will be on top of the silt. You may not see it until after 2 full days!
- **Plant and Animal Parts**-Dead plant and animal parts will often float to the surface. These parts will eventually be broken down into smaller bits by worms and other insects.



8. Was your soil made up of just one thing or more than one thing? How do you know?