



FWA CLASSROOM RESOURCES

EARLY YEARS

Super-Duper Soil

GRADE 2 - GRADE 3

LESSON DESCRIPTION

Soil is more important than we think! It's where we grow most of our food, and it needs to be protected. Learning more about what makes up soil will help students understand the connections happening in the world beneath our feet.

LESSON

- Without healthy soil, plants cannot grow. But what makes soil healthy? To many children, all soil may seem more or less the same. Here are some activities to get them thinking more about dirt.
- Collect some different soil samples (about 1 cup each) in your backyard and nearby outdoor space. Ideally, find at least four or five samples that are different in colour and texture.
- At each sampling location check for insects and worms, and note the kinds of plants that are growing in the soil. Note any differences in a science journal.

SUGGESTED CURRICULUM LINKS

Soils in the Environment - 3-4-02, 3-4-03, 3-4-04, 3-4-05

How do you say “**soil**” in Anishinaabemowin?



Azhashki (Ah-zjah-sh-keh)

- Place the soil in separate lidded jars, and record their colour and texture (fine, clumpy, hard, soft). Add a small amount of water to each sample and observe how quickly it absorbs.
- Fill the jar with water and put the lid on tight. Shake the jar, and allow the soil to settle out in layers: heavy particles like rock and sand will fall to the bottom, and light particles like clay and organic matter will stay on top. This process is called sedimentation.



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- Use your real soil experiment as a model for a soil profile. Add the following ingredients to help learn vocabulary: parent material, mineral matter, organic matter (humus) and leaf litter.
- Cut the top off a 2L pop bottle and add:
 - a small layer of rocks/pebbles to represent the parent material from which soil is formed;
 - a layer of sand or soil to represent mineral matter made up of sand, silt, and clay;
 - a layer of peat moss or composted leaves which represents organic matter (humus);
 - and a layer of fresh dead leaves to represent leaf litter that will be broken down over time.
- Soil Activities and Projects for Kids:
<http://www.soils4kids.org/home>