

This week, we are moving on to look at soil!

Scientific question: Do all soils contain the same materials?

You will need...

- 2 different soil samples (you could go for a walk and collect one from next to a river, in a wooded area, edge of a farmer's field...just something that would contrast with a sample from your garden at home!)
- 2 trays (to put your soil in)
- A magnifying glass if you have one (don't worry if not- you can still look closely without!)
- 2 sheets of white paper

Safety Note: Please wash hands before and after handling soil. It can contain things that can make us ill. Make sure you do not put your hands anywhere near your face until you have washed your hands!

Method

Please place a sheet of white paper in the bottom of each tray before you begin, so that you can see the soil more clearly.

Place a soil sample in each tray and examine them closely, using your magnifying glass if you have one!

Draw a diagram of what you can see on your record sheet. Describe what you can see (use the list under the soil picture to help you).

Questions to think about...

Do all soils contain the same materials?

What did the 2 soils have in common?

Can you think of any environments/different places around the world that might have different soils to the ones you have collected?

Soils

Soils are very important for life on Earth. They are a **habitat** for many organisms and are vital to plant growth.

Some of the things that might be found in soil include:



- Sand and small rocks
- Water
- Humus (dead and rotting organisms)
- Air spaces
- Minibeasts (small living things such as earthworms)
- Seeds, roots or other parts of plants
- Human litter and rubbish

Soil Sample A taken from _____

Does this soil contain
plant parts?

Does this soil contain
sand?

Does this soil contain
water?

Does this soil contain
minibeasts?

Describe this soil sample.

Soil Sample B taken from _____

Does this soil contain
plant parts?

Does this soil contain
sand?

Does this soil contain
water?

Does this soil contain
minibeasts?

Describe this soil sample.
