



Soil Detectives

Soil is made up of rocks (big and small), living and dead plants and animals (organic matter), water and air. There are lots of different types of soil which are made of different amounts of rocks, organic matter, water and air.



What you will need to be a soil detective:

- Gloves
- A trowl or an old spoon
- Something to carry the soil in (e.g. a small jar or paper bag)
- A label to say where the soil has come from.
- A magnifying glass (optional)
- Some paper or card

Lets become a soil detective!

1. Collect some soil from different places. It can be from your garden, school grounds or anywhere you have permission to safely collect soil.
2. If you are working together as a class you can all collect one sample each and look at the differences you can find between them!
3. Use your senses to discover as many different things about the soil as you can - touch, sound, smell, sight.

Ask yourself some questions:

What does it sound like when rubbed on paper? How does it feel between your fingers?
What colour is the soil? Can you see any pieces of plants in the soil?
What does it smell like?





You can use the table below as a guide to questions and to record your findings.

**Remember to
always wash
your hands after
touching soil!**



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This soil is from _____

<p>What colour is the soil?</p> <p>Can you see anything in the soil with your eyes or with the help of a magnifying glass?</p> <p>Are there sticks, stones or any insects?</p> 	
<p>What noise does the soil make if you rub it on some paper?</p> <p>Is it a loud or soft noise?</p> <p>Why do you think the soil sounds like that?</p> 	
<p>What does the soil feel like ?</p> <p>Is it hard or soft?</p> <p>Is it lumpy or like sand?</p> 	
<p>What does the soil smell like?</p> <p>Does it smell different to other soils you have collected?</p> <p>Does the smell remind you of anything?</p> 	
<p>Why is soil important?</p> <p>What differences can you see between the different soils you collected?</p> <p>Why do you think they are different?</p> 