

# SOIL INVESTIGATORS

## **Lesson Description:**

In this activity students take a closer look at the soil in their garden, using a paper plate and magnifying glass.

Eco-fact: the average lawn has between 50 and 250 earthworms. These little critters help break down organic matter in our soil such as fallen leaves and trees.

## **Procedure:**

- With your students, select an area to examine the soil. Scoop up one cup of soil and bring it back to class for a closer examination.
- Once you are back in class, pour the dirt from the cup onto a paper plate.
- Using a magnifying glass, examine the soil particles.
- In their nature journals students can record their observations and answer questions such as:
  - How would you describe the texture of the soil?
  - What does the smell of the soil remind you of?
  - What colors do you see?
  - What size are the soil particles?
  - Add a drop of water to a pinch of soil.
  - Students can then record how the soil changed when water was added by answering questions such as:
    - How did the soil change when water was added to it?
    - What does it look like?
    - How does it feel?
- On the page with their observations have the class glue a pinch of soil in their nature journals.

## **Adaptations:**

- During their investigation, what else can the kids find in the soil? Critters? Worms? Creepy-crawlies? Have them draw pictures of them in their nature journals.

## **Extensions:**

- If students can identify the wildlife found in the soil, ask them to record their wildlife names, too....
- Students come up with some fun and original wildlife names of their own!

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## **Lesson Type:**

- Other

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**Sustainability Topic:**

- Gardening

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**GEF Program Category:**

- Green Thumb Challenge

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**Time Needed:**

30 minutes

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**Materials Needed:**

plastic cup  
paper plate  
magnifying glass  
glue  
nature journal

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**Submitted By:**

Green Education Foundation

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**School or Group:**

GEF

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