

Name: _____

Date: _____



SOIL ♦ Student Worksheet

Lesson 1 ♦ What is soil?

Grades 6th-8th

Welcome!

In this lesson, we will be exploring the questions “What is soil?” and “Why is soil important?” We will be looking at soil composition, nutrients, and overall soil health.

As you watch the video, try to fill in the blanks and answer the questions below.

Let's learn about soil:

1. Soil is made up of _____ and _____ materials broken down into 4 main components.
2. The 4 main components of soil are:
 - a. _____ = _____ % of soil
 - b. _____ = _____ % of soil
 - c. _____ = _____ % of soil
 - d. _____ = _____ % of soil
3. Define what a mineral is and list the 3 categories of minerals:

4. What is organic matter? List some examples:

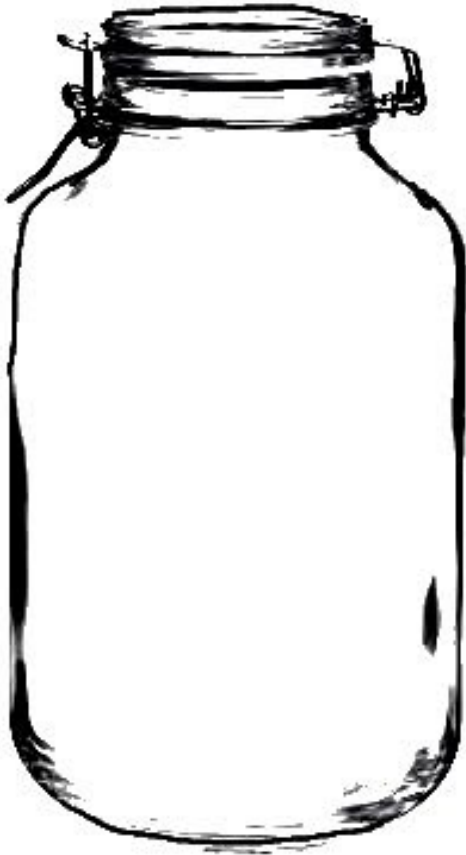
5. What are two simple ways to observe the amount of organic matter in your soil?

6. List 3 ways you can improve soil fertility by using plant material:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
7. List at least one thing about soil you would like to learn more about:

Activity: Shake Jar Test

After completing the Shake Jar Test at home, document your findings here.

Draw what your soil sample looks like below:



Soil sample measurements:

Total soil height: _____

Sand layer height: _____

Silt layer height: _____

Clay layer height: _____

Use the above measurements to calculate the percentage (or proportion) of sand, silt and clay in the soil: **Percentage = layer height ÷ total soil height**

Sand: _____ %

Silt: _____ %

Clay: _____ %