



Why Study Soil?

An activity which highlights the importance of learning about the soils on Earth. In this activity students explore some of the many uses of soils, learn the five soil-forming factors, and gain a better understanding of how little of Earth's surface is covered in soil.

Just Passing Through

Beginning students are introduced to the basic concepts of how water passes through soil in an activity which illustrates the scientific method. More advanced students investigate the effects of soil characteristics on water infiltration and the chemistry of water that has passed through soil.

Soil and My Backyard

Students collect, describe and compare soils from their own backyards.

A Field View of Soil and Soil Moisture - Digging Around

Students discover that soil properties such as moisture and temperature can vary considerably across a single landscape.

Soils as Sponges: How Much Water Does Soil Hold?

Students explore soil moisture by weighing and drying sponges and then they explore their soil samples in the same way.

Soil: The Great Decomposer

Students simulate environmental conditions in order to determine the key factors that affect the decomposition of organic material in soil.

The Data Game

Teams of students play a game in which they gather data and distort the values of certain measurements. They then estimate the values of the measurements taken by other teams and try to detect their errors.

Soil Makers

Students explore weathering with mud pies and erosion with trays of soil.