Soil Types

What You Need

- hand lens
- 3 paper plates
- 3 craft sticks
- 3 kinds of soil
- 3 milk cartons
- spoon
- red, blue, and green circle stickers
- water

Find Out
Do this activity to see how soils can be different.

Process Skills
Observing  Communicating  Measuring

Time
- 30 minutes to get started
- 30 minutes one week later
What to Do

1. Label one plate “red,” one plate “blue,” and one plate “green.” Put one scoopful of a different soil on each plate.

2. Look carefully at each soil with a hand lens.

3. Use a craft stick to look at different parts of the soil.

4. Write words that tell about each soil.

5. Label your milk cartons. One is red, one is blue, and one is green.

6. Fill the red milk carton with the soil labeled “red.” Do the same with the blue and the green.

7. Measure five spoonfuls of water into each milk carton. Put your milk cartons in a safe place.

8. After one week, use your craft stick and look carefully at the soil in each milk carton. Write words that tell about each soil.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil</th>
<th>To Start</th>
<th>After 1 Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students should write words in the chart to describe each soil. Student data will vary.
Conclusions

1. How did the soils change?

Answers will vary. Possible answers include: The description of the soils might be dry, hard, or sandy. The soils should dry differently; some may stay wet, others may get hard, others may crumble. All soils should dry out over the week.

2. Why do you think this happened?

Soils dry at different rates and look different when dry because they are made of different things. Some may have more water, air, or plant parts in them than others.

New Questions

1. Which soil would be best to grow plants in? Why?

The soil that holds more water would be easier to grow plants in.

2. Write a question you still have about soil.

Accept all reasonable questions.
Activity Journal
Lesson 1 • Land and Water

Name ______________________

ACTIVITY

Making a Land and Water Collage

Choose a word from the box to name each picture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>lake</th>
<th>river</th>
<th>mountains</th>
<th>plains</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

mountains

river

lake

plains
Draw one landform that you found.

Answers will vary but should represent a landform from their collage.

Draw one body of water that you found.

Answers will vary but should represent a body of water from their collage.
Activity Journal
Lesson 2 • Rocks and Soil

Name _______________________

Activity

Grouping Rocks

Look at the rocks carefully, and draw what you see.

Student drawings will vary but should include distinctive features of each rock.

UNIT B • Chapter 3: Land, Water, and Resources

Copyright © SRA/McGraw-Hill.
How did you **group** the rocks?

Answers will vary. Possible groupings include size, shape, color, and texture.
Caring for Earth

Guess how much paper your class uses in one week.

Answers will vary. Accept all reasonable answers.
**Activity Journal**  
**Lesson 3 • Earth’s Resources**

Name ____________________________

**Draw** how much paper your class used in one week.

Answers will vary but should reflect amount of paper the class used.

**What other things could you recycle?**

Answers will vary but may include aluminum cans, bottles, newspaper.