

Soil Day

Objectives:

- Four components of soil (silt, sand, clay, humus)
- Soil is alive
- Things you can add to soil in the garden

Tools:

- Soil samples (silt, sand, clay)
- 3-4 Jars with straight sides (enough to break into small groups)
- Trowels
- Laundry detergent (optional)

Classroom:

- What is soil made of?
 - All parts of the soil (minus humus) came from rock erosion over millions of years
 - Sand: largest particle
 - Lots of air space between (is this important?)
 - Silt: medium particle
 - Clay: smallest particle
 - Barely any air space between (is this important?)
 - ALSO humus (organic matter)
 - Leaves, wood, roots, poop
 - Fungi (mycelium)
 - Nutrients!
 - Soil structure (too advanced?)

Activity:

- Make a mudshake
 - Fill container $\frac{2}{3}$ full of water
 - Add enough soil to fill the jar
 - Close the lid tight
 - Shake it!
- Check on the jars daily
 - DO NOT MOVE

Notes: Check in next week. Sand on bottom, then silt, then clay; organic matter floats