

Vegetation Investigation

Different plants like different types of soil. At each station, investigate the plant life. Are there lots of leafy plants and trees? Are there mostly evergreens with lots of open space? *Write down what you see.*

Blue Station

Red Station

Purple Station

Word Bank

deciduous
evergreen
trees
bushes
vines
open
dense
tall
short
old
young

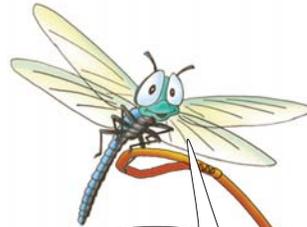
Use the word bank to help describe the plants around you!



TRACK your hike at

kidsinparks.com

and get **FREE** prizes!



Thanks for joining us on the trail today!

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Mud Mystery

Clear paw prints like this are only made in certain kinds of soil. Let's follow TRACK and see what kind of soil we can find!



Use this brochure to help you discover what kind of soil is at each station on the trail.

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Soil Squeeze

Not all soil is created equal. Some soil is soft and moist while others are dry and sandy. Different plants prefer to grow in different types of soil. Let's get our hands dirty and discover the kinds of soil beneath our feet.

At each station, grab a handful of moist soil and give it a firm squeeze. Does it stick together? Fall apart?

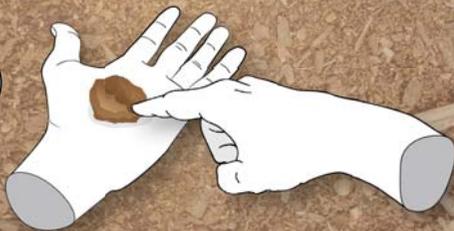
1



2



3



Poke it!

How does it feel? Gritty, buttery, smooth, sticky?
Does it fall apart easily when you poke it?

Clay

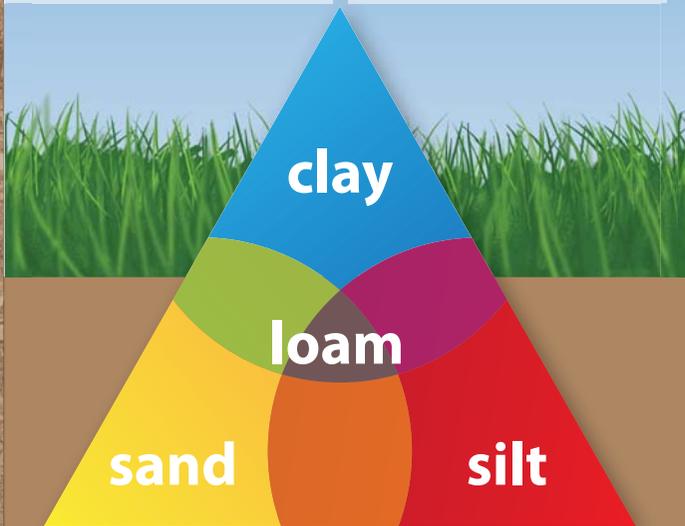
- Sticky texture
- Forms a shape when squeezed
- Doesn't come apart easily when poked

Cool Fact: Clay retains water and nutrients but plants can not easily extract them.

Loam

- Soft texture
- Clumps together when squeezed
- Crumbles when poked

Cool Fact: Loam is a mixture of sand, clay, and silt that many plants grow well in.



Sand

- Gritty texture
- Falls apart as soon as you open your hand

Cool Fact: Sandy soils don't retain much water or nutrients so only certain types of plants grow well here.

Silt

- Texture of flour
- Clumps together when squeezed
- Crumbles when poked

Cool Fact: Particles of silt are larger than clay but smaller than sand.

Record your Findings

Observe the results from your squeeze test at each station and try to determine the soil type!
Write your observations below.

Observations from Squeeze Test:

Blue Station

Guess the Soil Type:

Observations from Squeeze Test:

Red Station

Guess the Soil Type:

Observations from Squeeze Test:

Purple Station

Guess the Soil Type:

Flip to the Back