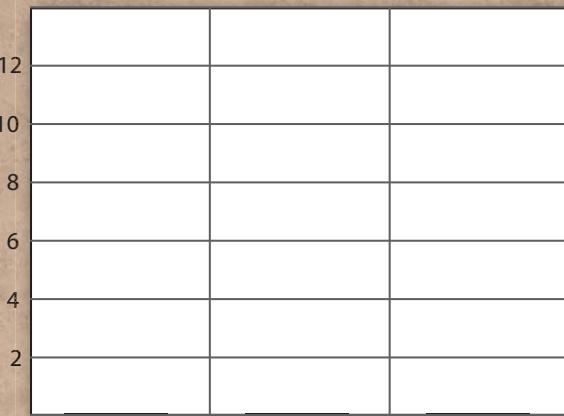


## Time to Analyze

Use the data you collected to make conclusions about the environment along the trail.

Color the bar chart below according to your data. Bar charts allow us to quickly compare our findings.



Which ecosystem best describes the environment around each station?

Based on your findings, how does the type of soil impact the types of plants that grow in the area?

TRACK your hike at

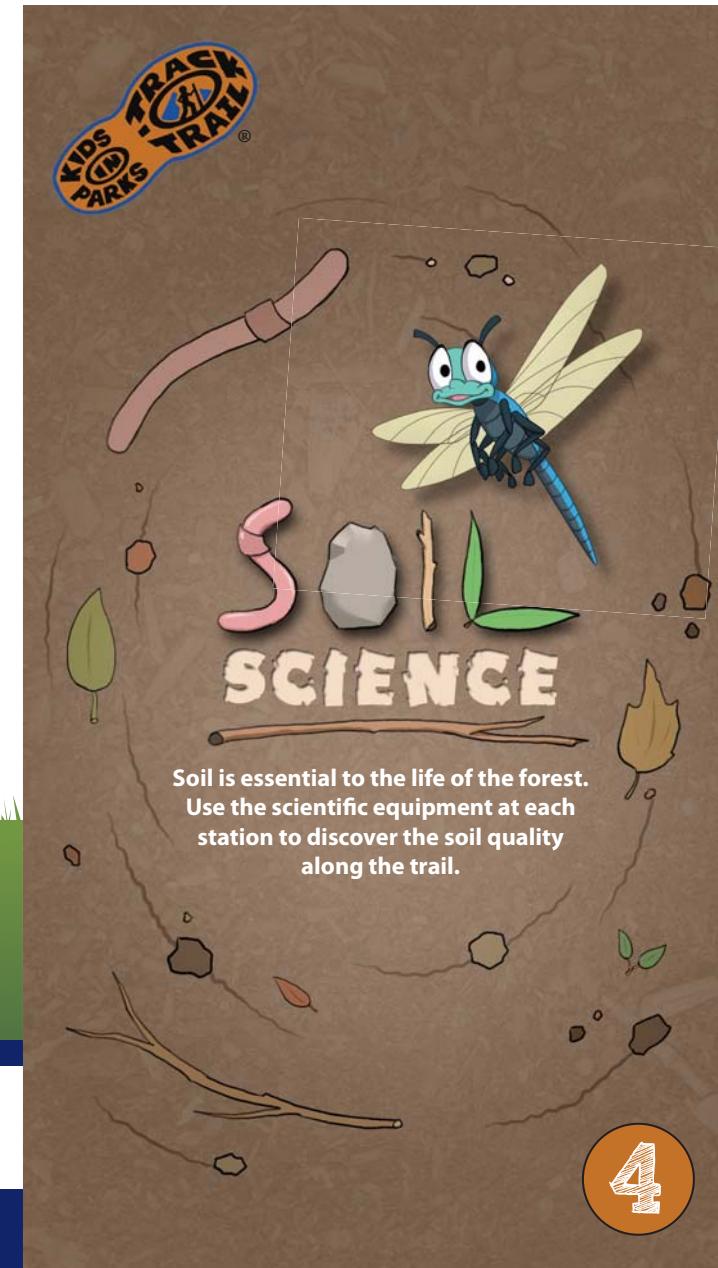
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# Soil Quality

Not all soil is the same. Not all plants like the same type of soil. While some plants thrive in dry acidic soil, others can't survive. Some love lots of light while others prefer the shade.

Let's use some scientific tools to test the soil at different stations on the trail. As you take your measurements, pay attention to the plants growing in each area.

**pH** is the level of acidity or alkalinity in a substance. A level of 7 is neutral. Anything below 7 is acidic while anything above 7 is alkaline (basic).

**moisture** level is the measure of water present in the soil. This is affected by precipitation, amount of sunlight, and type of soil.

**light** level is the amount of sunlight reaching an area. Sunlight warms the soil, aids evaporation, and helps plants with photosynthesis.

## compaction

is the density of soil. The amount of compaction affects water absorption and the ability of roots to spread.

## temperature

is the amount of heat in the soil. Soil temperature affects the types of plants that can thrive in the soil.

pH \_\_\_\_\_

light \_\_\_\_\_

moisture \_\_\_\_\_

compaction \_\_\_\_\_

temperature \_\_\_\_\_

pH \_\_\_\_\_

light \_\_\_\_\_

moisture \_\_\_\_\_

compaction \_\_\_\_\_

temperature \_\_\_\_\_

pH \_\_\_\_\_

light \_\_\_\_\_

moisture \_\_\_\_\_

compaction \_\_\_\_\_

temperature \_\_\_\_\_

What plants do you see here?

What plants do you see here?

What plants do you see here?