

**Pictou County Forest School - Grade 3 Lesson Plans**  
**Earth and Space Science: Soil**

**Activity:** Sweet Soil (suggested time 90 - 120 minutes)

**Overall Curriculum Outcome:** Learners will analyze soil in the environment.

**Specific Curriculum connections:**

Properties of soil

- How do soils from different areas compare?
- How do soil characteristics change when digging down deeper into the earth?

Soil separation

- How can I separate soil into its component parts?
- How does separating the soil into its component parts help with soil classification?
- How do the component parts that make up soil differ in samples from various areas?

Erosion, water absorption and drainage

- How much water do different soil types hold?
- How do rain and moving water affect various soil types?

Soil as an environment for living things

- How do the types of organisms differ in samples from various areas?
- How do the living organisms found in the soil differ as I dig down into the soil?
- How is soil important?

**Materials:**

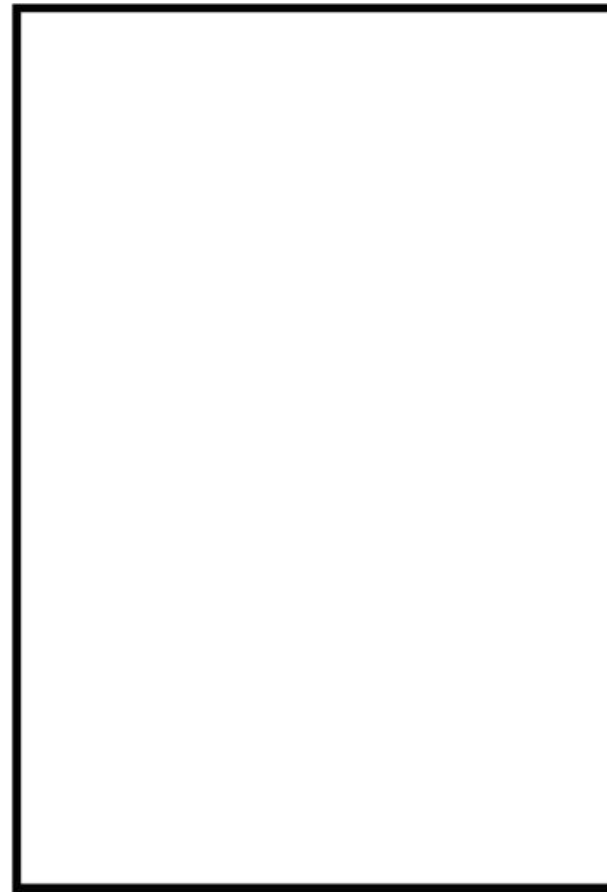
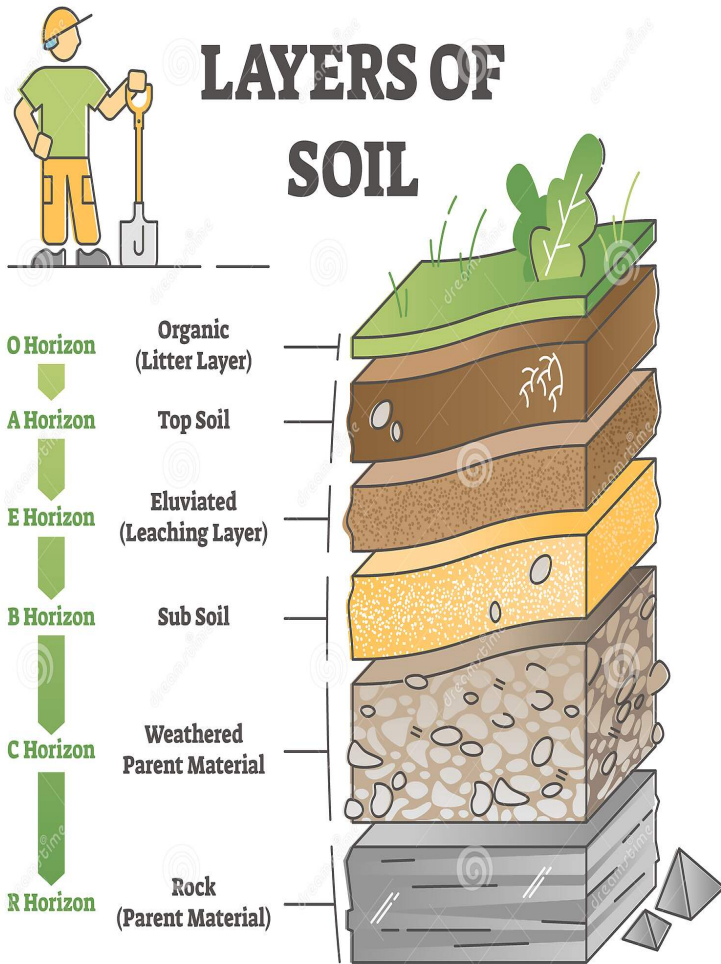
- Various printouts: colour wheel, soil level, soil life
- Clipboards, pencils, pencil crayons
- Shovels
- Clear plastic totes for water exploration
- Magnifying glasses

**Intro/Activation**

Colour	Texture	Water	Life
Students make a soil colour wheel illustrating the different soil colours at PCFS	Students dig test pits to observe soil levels	Students add water to various types of soil (gravel, sand, clay, loam, humus). What happens?	Students use magnifying glasses to observe various soils looking for living things

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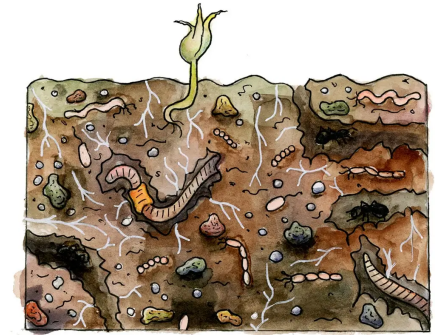
**Draw your soil layers below**



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Use your trowel and magnifying glass to uncover living things in our soil. Draw them below.

<b>Sand</b>	
<b>Humus</b>	
<b>Clay</b>	
<b>Loam</b>	



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Soil Colour Wheel

