

# Soil Properties Overview



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Texture Test

**QUESTION: Is the soil at your field site mostly sand, silt, or clay?**

What was your hypothesis?

Did the data you collected support your hypothesis? In what way?

Does the data you gathered seem right to you or is it not what you expected?

What variables might affect the data you gather through this test?

What could you do to make this test more accurate?

This worksheet supports the activities in the **Soil Properties** section on  
The Field Museum's *Underground Adventure* Web site: [www.fieldmuseum.org/undergroundadventure](http://www.fieldmuseum.org/undergroundadventure).



# Soil Properties Overview

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## Mud Shake

**QUESTION: Is the soil at your field site mostly sand, silt, or clay?**

What was your hypothesis?

Did the data you collected support your hypothesis? In what way?

Does the data you gathered seem right to you or is it not what you expected?

What variables might affect the data you gather through this test?

What could you do to make this test more accurate?

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# Soil Properties Overview

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## Soil Temperature

**QUESTION: What will the soil temperature be at your field site?**

What was your hypothesis?

Did the data you collected support your hypothesis? In what way?

Does the data you gathered seem right to you or is it not what you expected?

What variables might affect the data you gather through this test?

What could you do to make this test more accurate?

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# Soil Properties Overview

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## Compaction Test

**QUESTION: How compacted is the soil at your field site?**

What was your hypothesis?

Did the data you collected support your hypothesis? In what way?

Does the data you gathered seem right to you or is it not what you expected?

What variables might affect the data you gather through this test?

What could you do to make this test more accurate?

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## Percolation Test

**QUESTION: How well does the soil at your field site drain? How compacted is the soil?**

What was your hypothesis?

Did the data you collected support your hypothesis? In what way?

Does the data you gathered seem right to you or is it not what you expected?

What variables might affect the data you gather through this test?

What could you do to make this test more accurate?

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## The Big Picture

What is your research question?

How does the data you collected here help you answer that research question?

Look at this data and the data you collected in the **Factors That Affect the Soil** activities. What conclusions can you make from this data? What do these conclusions tell you about your research question?

Look at this data and the data you collected in the **Soil Biodiversity** activities. What conclusions can you make from this data? What do these conclusions tell you about your research question?

Looking at all the data you have collected so far, what is the most interesting or surprising thing you have noticed?

List any additional questions you have after doing these activities that you might want to investigate later.

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