

# Sort That Soil

KINDERGARTEN

Students sharpen their observation skills as they dig up a soil sample and then sort it based on its characteristics. They discover that soil is made up of many living and nonliving things.

## SUBJECT

SCIENCE

## TIME

30 - 45 MIN

## MATERIALS

Read aloud book from the Garden Library

Trowels, 1 per group

Containers, 1 per group

Magnifying lenses, 1 per student

Soil Sorting Worksheet, 1 per student

## DIRECTIONS

- Start with a read aloud book in the garden to introduce the topic of soil. Ask students why soil is important and what happens when the soil is not healthy? Why is healthy soil important for the school garden? Ask what they think they'll find in the soil in their school garden. Discuss and show examples of each of the four categories on the worksheet: Soil, Worms & Insects, Plant Matter, Rocks & Minerals.
- Send groups of students into the garden with a trowel and a container. Have students collect a scoop of soil from a garden bed. Instruct them not to dig up or disrupt any plants.
- Hand out a magnifying lens and a Soil Sorting Worksheet to each student. Have students sort the soil into the four categories on the sheet. Use the magnifying lens to investigate closely.
- Have students count how many of each category they found. What did they have the most of? What did they have the least amount of? Do they think their sample of soil is healthy? Healthy soil should have a portion of each of these items.
- If time permits, task students to take a sample from a different area and predict whether the new sample will be similar or different from the first sample, and explain why.

## SOURCE

- BCK Programs



# Soil Sorting Worksheet

<p><b>SOIL</b></p>	<p><b>WORMS &amp; INSECTS</b></p>
<p><b>PLANT MATTER</b></p>	<p><b>ROCKS &amp; MINERALS</b></p>

