

Lesson 1

WHAT IS SOIL?



TEACHER'S PREVIEW

Grade Level	K-I		
Learning Outcomes	Science 1. Identify the living and non-living materials found in soils. 2. Determine the requirements of healthy plants and animals.		
Environmental Message	Soil provides the foundation for plant and animal life.		
Important Vocabulary	garbage soil animal	living decompose mineral	non-living plant plastic
Equipment and Material	Plastic garbage bag A 5 gallon or larger bucket of soil Items to bury, including: paper glass bottle small broken toy leaves plastic spoon aluminum pop can plastic bag scrap of cloth soft fruits and vegetables		
	Teaching Aid: Natural Resource Cards (included)		



1. INTRODUCTION

The Living

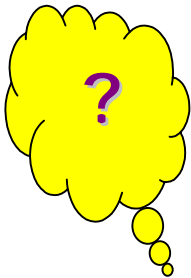
Illustrate with
Natural
Resource Cards

- A. Place in a plastic garbage bag:
Plastic bag, cotton cloth, bread, paper, leaves, glass bottle, toy, soft fruit peels and veggie scraps, plastic spoon and aluminum can.
- B. Let children take turns picking an item from the bucket and showing the class.

Note: a thing is only garbage if someone has thrown it away: for example the plastic spoon would not be garbage if it were washed and re-used.

- * Is it garbage?
- * Is the item alive, made from something living, or never was alive?
- * What is it made from?

What is Soil?



Let children examine the bucket of soil.

- * Is soil alive, made from something living, or never alive?
(Soil is made from both living things (microscopic animals), once-living things (decayed plants and animals), and things that were never alive (particles of rocks, mountains, etc).)
- * Does anything live in the soil?
- * What is soil used for? (To grow plants and as a home for many animals.)
- * Why is soil important to humans? (We need soil to grow fruit and vegetables to eat, to grow trees for shade, and grass to play on or for animals like cows and horses to eat.)

Bury and Wait

- A. Bury the items in the bucket full of moist soil. Make sure the items are covered with soil.
- B. Ask children to predict what will happen to each item as it is placed in the bucket.
- C. Place the bucket by the window in a warm area, keep moist and stir daily.
- D. After two weeks, examine the items in the pail.
- E. Use for Lesson 3 and 4.

2. SHARING

Soil - Mates

- A. Ask each child to draw a picture of something (a plant or animal) that needs soil to live.
- B. Make a classroom display of the pictures: 'Why is Soil Important?'

3. ASSIGNMENT

Make a collage out of sand, small stones, leaves, etc. to show the components of soil.

4. CLOSURE

- A. Hold up pictures of items that may or may not become part of soil.
- B. Ask children to identify which thing can be part of soil.

5. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Visit Delta Recycling Society's Earth-wise Garden:
The *Seed to Seed* Eco-Tour is designed to complement this lesson.

6. SUPPORT DOCUMENTS

More soil activities and information about composting can be found in the GVRD publications.

'No Time to Waste'

'Here's the Dirt: A Guide to Home Composting', GVRD, 1993.

'Living and Non-Living Things'. Videocassette, available through Delta Media Library.

