

Dig In! Be a Dirt Scientist!

Do you really know what "dirt" is? This is a great experiment for people of all ages to try!

What You Will Need:

1. 1 Bottle
2. A Handful of Dirt (from the yard or anywhere really)
3. Water
4. Marker

Instructions: Put the dirt into the bottle mark the line where your dirt is and add water leave an inch or two of air. Cap the bottle and shake it around for a while. Let the bottle sit undisturbed for 24 hours. Look at how the dirt has separated. Identify the various "ingredients" that make up the dirt, (pebbles, sand, silt, clay). If you want to try this activity in front of a large group of people have them follow the previous directions then have an already prepared bottle of "settled dirt" to identify ingredients as a group. Wait another 2-3 days now do you see more sand or clay? Use the definitions and chart below to help identify the make-up of your dirt. What soil would be the best for growing plants? What soil is the best to build a building on?



Dirt- Earth or soil

Gravel- jagged small rocks

Sand- Loose material consisting of rock or mineral

Peat- very acidic soil wet, spongy darker brown light weight soil found in wet swampy areas.

Pebbles- A small rounded stone

Loam- Nutrient rich soil slightly moist but not soggy lighter brown light weight soil

Silt- Fine sand or earthy matter

Clay- Mud

