

Experiences

ACTIVITY SHEET: PROBING SOIL THROUGH YOUR SENSES

Aim:

To explore soil through the senses and reflect on your own experiences and understanding of it.

What is needed?



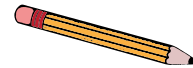
A small sample of soil



A little water



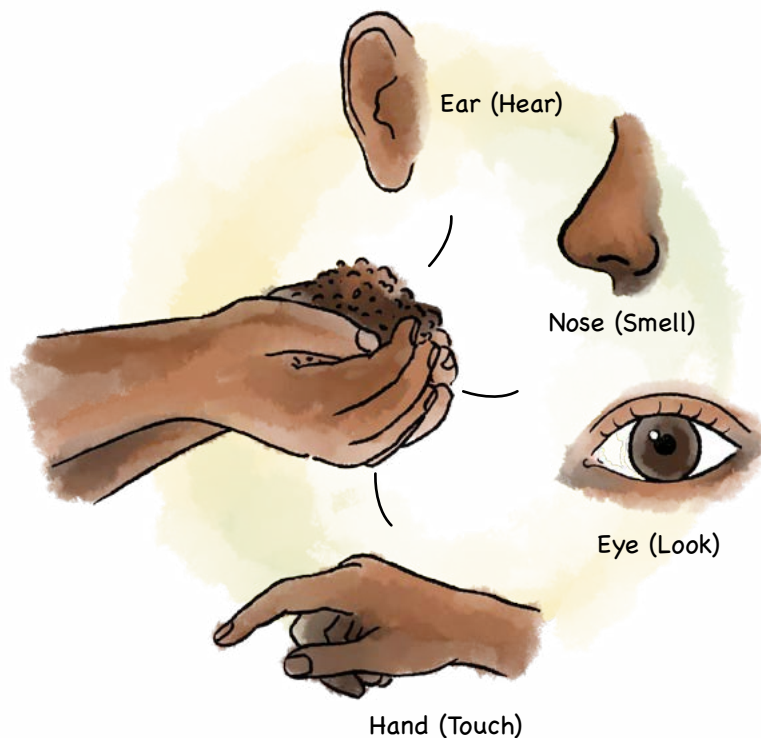
Paper or notebook



Pencil or pen








What to do?

- 1) **Think:** When you hear the word 'soil', what comes to your mind? You can write words, sentences, or draw.
- 2) **Explore:** Where can you find a sample that is closest to what you think of as soil? It could be from places such as a garden, the school ground, a field, or the roadside. Where needed, take permission to collect it. Avoid areas near stagnant water or chemicals. Wash your hands after handling soil.
- 3) **Look:** Notice the colour and texture of the sample. Does it look the same throughout? Are there other things mixed in it? How many of these can you name?
- 4) **Hear:** Rub or press some of the sample between your fingers. Does it make any sound (for example, gritty, soft, silent)?
- 5) **Touch:** How does it feel (dry, rough, smooth, sticky, or grainy)? Does it feel cooler or warmer than your hand? Sprinkle a few drops of water on the sample. What changes about it? Does it become sticky? Can you shape it?



- 6) **Smell:** What does the smell of the sample remind you of? For example, does it smell like wet soil after rain, freshly dug garden soil, a clay pot before it is fired, a damp cloth left in a room, or something else?

Observe and record:

 When I hear 'soil', this comes to mind:	
 I collected soil from:	
 It looked like:	
 It felt like:	
 It sounded like:	
 It smelt like:	
 It reminded me of:	

Think about:

- Q1. Where have you seen or used soil before (at home, in your neighbourhood, farm, garden, playground, etc.)?
- Q2. What do you know about soil from experience? How might the place where you live influence what you know about soil?
- Q3. What do you know about soil from textbooks? How does this relate to your experience?
- Q4. Did your observations of the sample match what you already knew or have learnt about soil? Did anything surprise you?



- Q5. Have you seen soil that is different from the sample? Where? In what ways was it different?



Discuss:

- Q1. How is your soil sample similar to or different from the samples collected by your classmates?
- Q2. What similarities and differences do you notice in your experiences of soil and those of your classmates?
- Q3. What are some questions you have about soil? What are some things you would like to learn about it?



Extend:

A) Interview someone at home or in your community about their relationship with soil. Record the following:

Who did you speak to and why? What do they use soil for?	
What questions did you ask to understand their use or experience of soil in daily life?	
What do they know about soil?	
How did they learn about it?	
What is one special memory they have of soil?	

B) What did you learn from this discussion that you did not know before? How is this similar to or different from what you read in your science textbooks?

Acknowledgements:

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Contributed by:

Chitra Ravi, who works at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru. She can be contacted at: chitra.ravi@apu.edu.in.