

Jackson County Conservation Summer 2020—Weekly Nature Activity Series

We hope that our weekly nature activities can provide some outdoor fun for you and your family this summer. You are welcome to gather your own supplies for the activities or pick up materials at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. Materials will be available in the outdoor classroom on the south side building on Monday mornings beginning at 9 am and are available while supplies last.

Week 3: June 22

Materials we are providing this week: 3 soil samples

Exploring Soils

Dirt is more than dirty!

Materials

- Space to get dirty in
- Small containers such as yogurt cups
- Water
- Surface to paint like sidewalk, lumber or paper
- Optional: paint brushes, glue, washable paint, jars with lids, dish soap

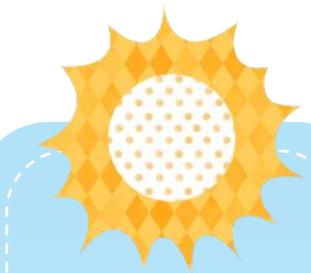
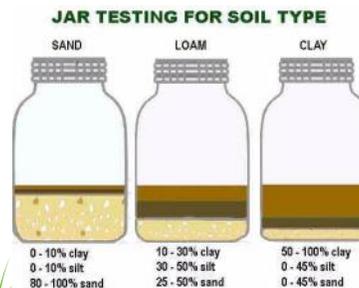
Instructions

Explore each sample individually. How do they feel? Do you see any layers? What color is it? Can you roll it in a ball?

Put some of each in a small dish with a bit of water. Does the soil fall apart? Does it get slippery? Mix it in really well and let it sit. Do any bits of plant matter float? If you like, put a some soil in a jar with water and shake it up to see the layers the different soil parts make.

Time to get creative! Can you make a sculpture with your soil? Mix your soil with water and dish soap (for easier clean up) and start to paint with your mud. You can even mix in paint to change the color.

We'd love to see what you created! Send photos to jess@jacksonccb.com.



Soil Horizons



Soils have different layers. The layers are based on soil color, texture and how much organic matter or rock is in it. The uppermost layers of soils is usually the darkest and most life supporting because of all of the little bits of organic matter in it that feeds the plants. The bedrock in our area is limestone so the layers get lighter as they get deeper.

You can explore your soil layers by digging down and taking a sample every few inches. How many layers and soil types can you find?

Contact Us

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