

### Supplies Needed:

- Small Shovel
- Tweezers
- Magnifying Glass
- White Paper Plate or Bowl
- 3 feet String
- Ruler
- Nature Journal
- Pencil

### Instructions:

Have you ever taken time to look at see what's in the soil? Soil is composed of minerals (45%), water (25%), air (25%), and organic matter (5%). Taking time to see what is in soil sharpens observation skills and builds a greater appreciation for natural resources.



Using the string, make a circle on the ground. Look inside the circle. What do you see? Are there any plants? Are there any animals? Do you see any evidence that animals have been there? What else do you see?

Using the shovel, dig a small hole that is 1 inch deep inside the circle. Feel the soil from this hole. What does it feel like? What color is it? Put some of the soil on the white paper plate or bowl. (This should help you see better.) Use the tweezers and/or magnifying glass to observe.

Now, dig two more small holes inside the circle: one that is 3 inches deep and one that is 6 inches deep. Feel the soil from these holes. What does it feel like? What color is it? How is the same or different from the soil from the first hole? Continue to observe the soil samples on the paper plate. Did you find anything interesting?

Youth can record their experiences in their nature journals. At the end of the activity, all the soil should be returned to the holes.

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### References:

Algranati, M. (2000). *Try-its for Brownie Girl Scouts*. New York: Girl Scouts of the USA.

