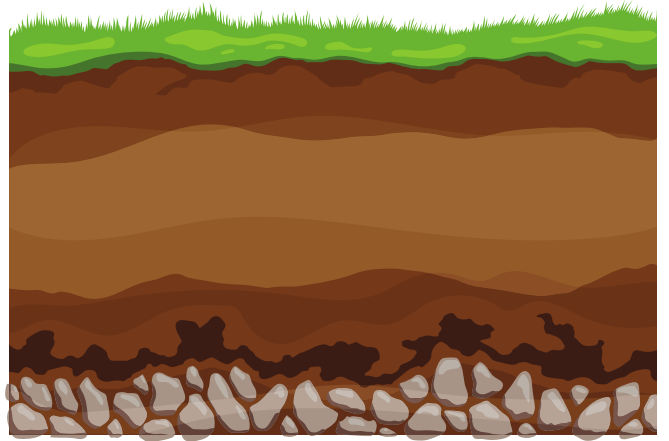


SOIL TRAIL MIX

Introduction: Soil is made up of many different components, including broken down rock, water, living things like worms and bacteria, and dead or decomposing plants and animals. Each part plays an important role in our soil ecosystem. Today we are going to explore the different parts of soil by creating our own edible soil layers - and enjoy a tasty treat too!



Materials: You will need a copy of each soil layer identification card (provided below) along with a portion of the associated food for each layer. Bowls or plates and napkins for the students to use with their snacks will be needed as well.

SNACK IDEAS:

Living Things: Gummy worms, candy bugs, M&Ms, chocolate chips

Dead Plant Parts: Pretzel sticks, Chex mix

Rocks: Marshmallows or Rock candy/Nerd gummies

Organic Matter/Compost: Dried fruit (cranberries), Fruit gummies

Leaves: Corn flake cereal, rice puff cereal

Water: Blue sprinkles or blue candy bits

Lesson Instructions:

- Display the chosen snack foods with the soil layer identification card in front of each one. Distribute bowls or plates to students.
- Explain to youth how soil is made of a variety of living and nonliving things. Refer to the book, *The Soil in Jackie's Garden*, for all the components of soil. It may be helpful to read the book together and discuss.
- Introduce various soil layer foods that you have displayed. Discuss the importance of each layer to overall soil health. Encourage youth to dig in and create their own "soil" by filling their bowls with a little of each soil layer.
- Enjoy your yummy soil snack together!

EDIBLE SOIL LAB: LIVING THINGS



Gummy Worms

EDIBLE SOIL LAB: DEAD PLANT PARTS



Pretzel Sticks

EDIBLE SOIL LAB: ROCKS



Mini Marshmallows

EDIBLE SOIL LAB: ORGANIC MATTER/COMPOST



Chocolate Chips

EDIBLE SOIL LAB: LEAVES



Corn Flakes

EDIBLE SOIL LAB: WATER



Blue Sprinkles