

Soil Scavenger Hunt (Observe & Research) Soil Chefs - Lesson 1



For the Classroom

- Group structure - whole group or small groups
- Location - throughout schoolyard
- Approximate time - 25 minutes

Common Core and Georgia Standards of Excellence

- S3E1c. Students will use observation to compare similarities and differences of texture, particle size, and color in top soils (such as clay, compost, and sand).
- S3L1. Students will investigate the habitats of different organisms and the dependence of organisms on their habitat.
- S3CS8/S4CS8/S5CS8. Students will understand important features of the process of scientific inquiry.
- S3CS3/S4CS3/S5CS3. Students will use tools and instruments for observing, measuring, and manipulating objects in scientific activities.

Materials

- Trowels (1 per small group)
- Magnifying Glasses (1 per small group)
- Clipboards (1 per child)
- Pencils (1 per child)

Reproducibles

- Soil Scavenger Hunt (1 per child)

Directions

1. Observe plants growing in the garden and various outdoor spaces around the school noting the dependence of those plants on their unique habitat.
2. Small groups can use a trowel to pull up some of the soil in each location. Students touch and look closely with a magnifying glass before articulating what they observe about the soil using the words that describe:
 - a. Smell/Texture (smooth, rough)
 - b. Color (dark, light) - can rub soil on paper to capture color!
 - c. Particle Size (small, large)
 - d. Weight (light, heavy)

Lesson Created by Jenna Mobley for Georgia Organics