



# ACADEMY SCIENCE CAMP

from home

## Soil Dissection

What you can find in the soil? What do plants need to grow? Some of the things plants need are air, water, the sun, and good soil. What does good soil mean? Good soil is made up of many things. Let's see what we can find in soil.

### Know before you begin

- This activity can be done inside or outside
- All supplies are easy to find, substitute or leave out entirely
- Adult supervision is recommended
- Please choose a safe space to play

### Materials

- Sample of soil from outside
- Plates or other containers for sorting
- Tweezers
- Spoon
- Magnifying glass
- Plastic trash bag or tarp to catch any spills

### Instructions

1. Spread out large black trash bag. This is the working area.
2. Set up a paper plate with a small scoop of soil on it.
3. Sort your soil samples from the paper plate onto empty paper plates. Try and keep everything on the trash bag!
4. Search through the sample of soil, using the tweezers and spoons.





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5. Separate what you find into small piles of similar items—all leaves together, sort rocks by size, color, etc. What ingredients can you find?
6. Touch the soil.

*Is the soil dry or moist? If it is moist, can you see the water?*

*What does the soil feel like? Smooth, rough, sticky?*

*Why might it be important for soil to have water in it?*

*What colors do you see? Is there a smell?*

*Can you find different size rocks? Can you find different types of rocks?*

*Does some of the soil stick together?*

*Did you find any roots? Plant parts?*

*Did you find things that were never alive (rocks)? Things that were alive once (plants, plant roots and twigs)?*

