

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Soil Shake

Put four inches of soil into a quart jar. Add water until the jar is 3/4 full.  
Make sure the lid is on tight. Shake the jar vigorously for two minutes.  
Set the jar down and let it settle for one minute.  
Measure the amount of soil at the bottom of the jar.

After one minute: Measurement of bottom layer (sand) \_\_\_\_\_

After five minutes: Measurement of second layer (silt) \_\_\_\_\_

After one day: Measurement of top layer (clay) \_\_\_\_\_

Why do the largest particles settle first? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do smaller sized particles settle last? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the stuff floating in the jar? \_\_\_\_\_

How does your sample compare with the others? \_\_\_\_\_

### Soil Texture

The mineral matter of all soils are made up of tiny particles (pieces) of rocks and minerals. Not all particles are the same size. There are three main kinds of mineral matter or soil. They are sand, silt, and clay.

Rub each soil sample between your fingers - first a dry sample then a wet sample.  
Record your observations below

Type of Mineral Matter	Size Particles	Texture
sand		
Silt		
Clay		

These are the words you should be using to describe texture: gritty, smooth, slick, and sticky.  
These are the sizes to describe particle size:

Biggest

Medium

Smallest

10.2.36