

Sample the Soil

Procedure

- 1. Collaborate** Work with a partner. Empty a soil sample on a sheet of paper placed on a tray. Label this sample *1*. Use the hand lens to observe the soil. You may use a plastic spoon to sift through the soil as you observe it. **Safety:** Wear goggles.
- 2. Record Data** In the chart below, record your observations of the soil. Record properties of the soil: color, its dryness or wetness, the size of the particles, and the shape of the particles.

Property	Soil Sample 1	Soil Sample 2	Soil Sample 3
color			
dry or wet?			
size of particles			
shape of particles			

- 3. Observe** Repeat steps 1 and 2 for each remaining soil sample. Label these samples *2* and *3*. Record your observations in the chart.

Conclusion

Write the answers to the questions below.

1. **Communicate** Work with another pair of students. Share your observations.

2. **Compare** Compare your three soil samples. Describe how the samples are alike and how they are different.

Investigate More!

Design an Experiment What happens to each soil sample when it is mixed with water? Plan your experiment so that all conditions stay the same except the soil. Share your results with the class.