



# How Soils Differ

## Procedure

- 1. Collaborate** Work with a partner. Label two bowls *A* and two bowls *B*. Put 250 mL of one type of moist soil into each bowl labeled *A*. Put 250 mL of a second type of moist soil into each bowl labeled *B*. **Safety:** Wear goggles.
- 2. Observe** Place several spoonfuls of each of the two types of soil on separate sheets of waxed paper. Feel the texture of each soil. Use a hand lens to look at the soils. Record your observations in the chart below.

Soil Sample	Soil Properties	
	Day 1	Day 2
<b>A covered</b>		
<b>A uncovered</b>		
<b>B covered</b>		
<b>B uncovered</b>		

- 3. Experiment** Use plastic wrap to cover one bowl labeled *A* and one bowl labeled *B*. Place all four bowls in a sunny window until the next day.
- 4. Observe** Remove the plastic wrap. Repeat step 2, observing the soil in all four bowls. Record your observations.

## Conclusions

**1. Compare** Compare your observations. How were the soils in the covered and uncovered bowls different? How could you explain the differences?

---

---

---

**2. Using Models** Suppose the plastic wrap models plants, such as grass, that cover soil. How might wind and sunlight affect bare soil and soil covered with grass?

---

---

---

**Ask Questions** Invite a gardener to discuss soils in your area. Write questions you would like the gardener to answer. You might want to know what kinds of soil are best for growing certain kinds of plants.

Guided Inquiry