



SECTION 7: COMPARING SOILS

LAB

INTRODUCTION

Permeability is the soil or rocks' ability to let water flow through. Whether water runs off the land into gutters or rivers, or is absorbed into the soil depends on the land's slope, the size and shape of the particles in the soil, and how tightly packed the particles are. Water absorbed into the soil remains available to plants as ground water. Less erosion occurs when water is absorbed into the ground.

ASSESSMENT ANCHORS ADDRESSED

- S4.A.2.2** Identify appropriate instruments for a specific task and describe the information the instrument can provide.
- S4.C.1.1** Describe observable physical properties of matter.
- S4.A.3.3** Identify and make observations about patterns that regularly occur and reoccur in nature.
- S4.D.1.2** Identify the types and uses of Earth's resources.

PURPOSE

Students will test soils for permeability through a series of activities.

MATERIALS

For Each Pair of Students

Foam cup	Loam, clay, humus
Pencils*	Plastic trays
Water	Vials with lids
worksheets	1 spring scale (0-500g)

*Teacher provides items marked with **