

Huron County Nature Center Wilderness Arboretum

Collecting Soil Samples

Lesson Plan

Level: 3rd - 6th Grade

Developed by Bob Tallman with funding support, in part, from the Huron County Nature Center

Program Description: Students will collect soil samples observing layering. They will take the samples back to the classroom for further investigation.

MEAP Benchmarks:

SCI. V 1.Elem. 2: Recognize and describe different types of Earth Materials.
SCI.V 1. Middle 3: Soil determines surface changes over time.

Materials:

- Straight shovel
- 3 two gal zip lock bags for each group

Procedure:

Students will dig a 10 cm square hole deep enough to fill a zip lock bag.

Students will observe and draw any layers in the soil. Label plants on the surface and any identifiable organic matter.

Take samples from 3 different areas.

Smooth the remaining soil to cover the hole.

Take the samples back to the classroom or to a testing area for further observation.