

## Essential Activity: Grades 3-6

# What's in the soil around my house?

### Experiment!

This activity involves sampling different types of dirt in your yard, by digging up a little soil from each spot, then looking at the soils and describing what is observed. There is no special equipment needed for this activity!

Download the “**What's In The Soil Around My House**” lesson and the “**Soil Observation Form**” PDFs are on the First Day School website too.

**Note to parents:** *Please make sure you are able to supervise where your child collects soil samples, especially if there are dogs or cats that might use the same area. Hand washing rule of 20 seconds applies in these activities after handling soils gathered outside.*

### Discuss!

Using what you wrote down in your chart and the pictures you took ...

- what characteristics (that you wrote about in your chart) did soils have that had more or healthier plants grow in them?
- Why do you think some of your other soils had fewer plants growing in them? Did you find anything (other than plants and their roots) living in any of your soil samples, and if so, which soils?
- Do you think these living things that were not plants make a difference in how well soils can support more growth?
- Thinking about this activity, how do you think this activity and what you learned might relate to one of the quotations, query or bible passage (see page 2)?

### Share!

Share what you found out with your parents, to help them grow better plants!

### **Matthew 13:1-9**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

### **Query**

Do we intentionally explore and live our conviction that there is that of God in all creation? – Query from *BYM Faith and Practice*

### **Quotes**

*The produce of the earth is a gift from our gracious creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the earth now to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age.* – John Woolman, c. 1760

*All things are bound together. All things connect. Whatever befalls the earth, befalls also the children of the earth.* – Oren Lyons, Onondaga Nation