

## What is Soil?



You have been given the task of describing soil to a visitor from another planet so that they can bring it back to their home and grow all the wonderful things that we grow on Planet Earth.

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**First**, collect a scoop of soil from a safe, clean spot outside. You can put the soil in a bag or cup, or on a plate, and then bring it inside. This may get a little messy, so it's a good idea to put some newspaper down where you will be working.

**Next**, take some time to observe the soil with your eyes. What do you see in the soil? You can touch the soil, too, if you'd like. What does it feel like?

**Below**, make a list of the living and nonliving things that you see in soil. Examples of living things are worms and insects. Some examples of non-living things include decomposing plant parts, leaves, twigs, sticks, rocks, sand, water, and air pockets.

Living Things:	Nonliving Things:
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____

**Last**, write a short sentence describing your soil sample. Make sure you include the items in your lists above so the visitor from a faraway planet can recreate soil back home:

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