



Activity 9. Making soil

Aim

To help students understand that soil takes a long time to form.

Materials required

- 2 pieces of sandstone
- a teaspoon
- a stopwatch
- a handful of soil

Procedure

1. Rub two pieces of sandstone together and collect the particles produced on a piece of paper.
2. Answer the following questions:
 - a. How long does it take to make a teaspoonful?
 - b. Is this material really soil? Why/why not?
- c. Do you think plants would grow well in this material? Why/why not?

Following up

Collect a handful of soil from around you school or home. Sort the soil into grains of sand, plant particles, animal particles, and other things.

If the ground-up rock yo made previously had all these particles in it, it would also be called soil. Make your ground-up rock into soil.

You have mixed up many of the ingredients found in soil to make your home-made soil, but there is one thing you can't add – time. It takes hundreds of years to make soil.