

FACTivity

The question to be answered in this FACTivity is: What are some of the things that make up soil?

The procedure to be used to answer the question is an adaptation of the game Sudoku. This is Soildoko! Complete the Soildoko puzzle below by filling in the blank

spaces. Six different things that make up soil are listed in the puzzle. In each row and column of the puzzle, each of the six should appear only once. After the puzzle is finished, the answer to the question should be obvious. What are some of the things that make up soil?

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Bacteria and Fungi | Clay, Silt, and Sand | | Water | | Minerals |
| Air | | Bacteria and Fungi | | Animals and Plants | |
| Clay, Silt, and Sand | | Water | | Minerals | Bacteria and Fungi |
| | Water | | | | Clay, Silt, and Sand |
| Water | | Minerals | | Clay, Silt, and Sand | |
| | Bacteria and Fungi | Clay, Silt, and Sand | Animals and Plants | | Air |

This FACTivity was adapted from <http://www.soil-net.com>.

National Science Education Standards

Science as Inquiry:

Abilities Necessary To Do Scientific Inquiry;
Understanding About Scientific Inquiry

Life Science:

Structure & Function in Living Systems;
Populations and Ecosystems;
Reproduction and Heredity;
Diversity and Adaptation of Organisms

Science in Personal & Social Perspectives:

Populations, Resources, and Environments;
Natural Hazards;
Risk & Benefits

History & Nature of Science:

Science as a Human Endeavor;
Nature of Science



Teachers: If you are a PLT-trained educator, you may use Activity #24, "Nature's Recyclers," and #80, "Nothing Succeeds Like Succession," as additional resources.

Additional Web Resources

National Science and Technology Center:
Mycorrhizal Fungi

<http://www.blm.gov/nstc/soil/fungi/index.html>

Benefits of Soil Microbes

<http://www.rivenrock.com/soilmicrobes.htm>