

CIC Lesson Plan

Lesson Name Getting the Dirt on Soils
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For Grade 2

Related CA Science Standards and Vocabulary

Specific standards and new vocabulary related to lesson

CA Science Standard(s):

Soils have mineral, animal, and plant components.

Vocabulary/Definitions:

organic vs. inorganic, soil texture: clay vs. loam vs. sand

Introduce and Engage

Making personal connections, engaging curiosity, building connections to kids' experiences

Personal Introduction: *What do you do for work, hobbies, play? Why are you interested in this topic?*

- start off with how I like to hike in different places and love to travel – I noticed that places look so different above the ground, I started to wonder whether they were as different below the ground...

Building Connections to Kids' Experiences: *Can you think of an experience most kids would have related to your topic? Is there something to show that will grab their attention? Or can you pose a mystery with a question about something they see everyday?*

I'd like the kids to brainstorm about a few different places (e.g. – the soccer field, their garden, a forest, a bog) and think about how those places are different – we'll keep a chart on the board of useful words they come up with to describe places. Then I'll talk to them about what soil is – get them to help me come up with a definition for soil, and some more words for how soil looks and feels.

The mystery question is that I'm going to give each group a soil from one of the places we just talked about, and they're going to go through the worksheet and try to figure out where it's from...

Learning Experiences

Any combination of demonstrations, hands-on activities, and pictures that helps kids explore new ideas.

Describe specific experiences in the order you plan, including instructions you need to give students.

What kids will see, do, hear, touch, taste or make.

After we brainstorm as a class for a while, this will really be a hands on activity where the kids get to play with the soil and think about what soil is made up of, and why different places might have different soils. I just want them to realize that soils are made up of different components, and that the world is as complicated and interesting belowground as it is above!



Sharing Experiences & Building Ideas

What kids will share about experiences and how to help them interpret experiences to build ideas and vocabulary.

Invitation to Share and/or Discussion Questions:

Brainstorming: what do they think is different about the field sites I chose?
How would they describe soil? (we'll go through colours, textures, animals... to get some good vocabulary words)

Summary and Closing Ideas:

As a whole classroom, we'll talk about which groups had which soils, and how they knew where their soil came from...

Follow-On Activities

Ideas for follow-on activities, your favorite kid books, things to notice

Example: Ask Teacher and kids to write a letter about what they learned. Include drawings!

Materials and Preparation in Classroom

required materials and classroom set-up for complete lesson.

Volunteer Brings:

Bags of soil, pie plates and stir sticks so the kids can separate the soil out...
Pictures of the field sites where the soil may have come from...

Classroom Needs:

Set-Up Requirements:

If the students could already be in groups of 3-4, or could at least easily pull their desks together in groups), that would be great...

