

Simple home activity for soil exploration and composting



Without soil, life on Earth would not be possible. In this simple and fun activity, students will have an opportunity to explore soil outdoors and design a solution for composting at home. There are three parts to this activity: *Wonder, Explore, and Create.*

STEP 1: *Wonder*

The first step in setting up a meaningful outdoor exploration with your child is to get them curious. Here are some fun facts about soil you can share to build interest:

70,000
different types
of soil can
be found
in the U.S.

20,000
pounds of total
living matter exist
in the top six
inches of an acre
of soil.

500 years
is the minimum
time it takes to
form one inch
of topsoil.

5,000
different types
of bacteria exist
in one gram
of soil.

15 tons
of dry soil
pass through
one earthworm
each year.

1,400,000
earthworms
can be found in
one acre
of cropland.

10%
of the world's
carbon dioxide
emissions are
stored in soil.

Source: <https://www.audubon.org/news/10-incredible-facts-about-dirt>

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STEP 2: Explore

Pick a location to explore. If possible, find a location where you can dig a small hole with a garden trowel or shovel. You might also choose to take photographs or videos of your findings!

Can you find evidence of different soil types?

For example:

- Are there different colors of soil in the area you are exploring?
- How many textures of soil can you find? Is the soil sandier and looser or more like clay?

Dig a hole.

- How many different living things can you find in the soil?
- Are there any earthworms?

Can you find evidence of bacteria in your area?

One tablespoon

of soil has more organisms in it than there are people on earth!

Those are some small organisms – mostly bacteria that can't be seen with the naked eye. But anywhere something is rotting (decomposing), there is bacteria.



STEP 3: Create

Finally, it's time to create! [Join Mya, the Full-Time Kid to learn how to make a simple composter for home use.](#) Once you have finished compost, you can add it to the soil anywhere plants are growing to give them a healthy snack!

Some things you will need.



Tools



Organic matter



Sun!



Stir.



Water.



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