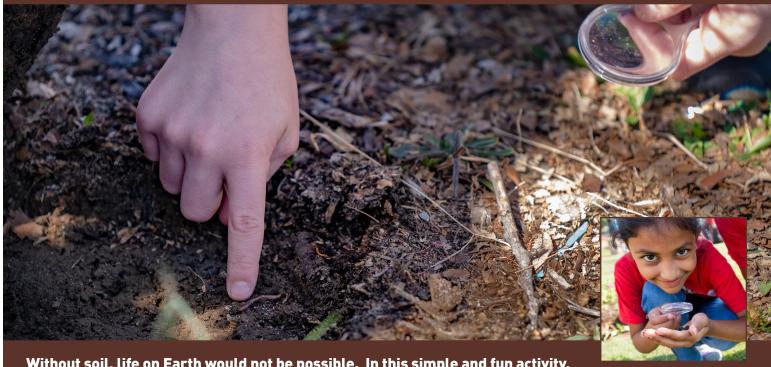
# Earth Day APRIL 22

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.

# 15 tons

of dry soil pass through one earthworm each year.

# 1,400,000

earthworms can be found in one acre of cropland.

### 500 years

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

of the world's

# 5,000

different types of bacteria exist in one gram of soil.

# 10%

carbon dioxide emissions are stored in soil.

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

Continue -



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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!

