

# See It Settle

- Objective: To observe layers of soil
- Learner Objective: To observe sedimentation of soil types making up the layers of the soil
- Supplies Needed: Soil  
Clear plastic 2-liter bottle  
20 oz. plastic bottle for each participant  
Water  
Permanent marker  
Graduated cylinder  
Paper towel  
Old newspaper to cover tables
- Procedure: Trim away opaque base of 2-liter bottle (if necessary) so the whole bottle can be seen  
Remove label  
Using the graduated cylinder, pour 100 ml of water into bottle and mark the level. Repeat until 1000 ml level has been reached. After marking one bottle, use it to mark all the others.  
Pour 2 ½ cups of soil into marked bottle. See note on soil collection.  
Pour enough water to reach the 1000 ml mark.  
Shake vigorously  
Place the bottle on a flat surface and watch the soil particles settle into layers. May take several days to completely settle.

Evaluation: Participants should write the results of the experiment. The heavier particles of sand will settle to the bottom first. Lighter loam soil will settle next. The clay soils will settle last.

Note: The soil collection should be from several locations in separate containers so all the students' experiments will not have the same results. If it is necessary to store the soil, it should be air dried for 3-4 days before putting in air-tight containers. Do not dry in an oven. Oven drying will kill microscopic life and change the characteristics of the soil.