

# Experiment 4: Soil profiles

Soils comprise many components: sand, silt, clay, rocks and organic matter. This experiment helps separate the different components for you to see what makes up their soil.

## Materials required:

- one large jar or beaker
- a cup of soil
- water
- a spoon.

## Instructions:

1. Add your soil to your jar.
2. Top up the jar with water leaving around 1cm of headroom.
3. Stir vigorously for five minutes.
4. Watch as your soil starts to separate into different components. Heavier particles will sink first, while biological matter will float.
5. Leave your jars to settle overnight.
6. Make an observation of the layers and discuss why the components are separated.

**Notes:** You could also try collecting different samples from different areas and comparing the soil profiles.

Experiment adapted from <https://www.kidspot.com.au/parenting/things-to-do/how-to-do-your-own-soil-experiment/news-story/79a3977681b487dc763c131bf148b8f1>