

# Science Stories

## Science to Go

### Soil Stories

#### READ ALOUD TIPS

#### FROM MISS RENEE

- Make reading fun - this shouldn't be a chore for you or your child
- Preview the book. Reading it to yourself lets you know what your in for and helps with reading aloud
- Read in manner you're comfortable with but make sure you read with expression. If you're not comfortable doing voices don't, but don't read as if the book is boring.
- It's okay to ask questions, talk about things or explore the pictures with your child while you're reading
- Just because you child isn't sitting with you or gets up to play doesn't mean they aren't listening, so keep reading. Of course if they've left the room or are being really loud while playing then you can stop.
- Participate in the activities with your child. Just because you're a grownup doesn't mean you can be silly and have fun!

#### SCIENCE TIPS

#### FROM MISS RENEE

- Be an active participant with your child
- Ask questions - it's okay not to know the answer, that's why you have a library.

### Booklist

#### Fiction:

Roy Digs Dirt by David Shannon

Sam and Dave Dig a Hole by Mac Barnett

Curious George and the Dump Truck by H.A. Rey

Holey Moley by Lois Ehlert

Roslyn Rutabaga and the Biggest Hole on Earth by Marie-Louise Gay

#### Non-Fiction

Dirt: the Scoop on Soil by Natalie Rosinsky

Dirt by Steve Tomecek

Soil by Kate Walker

Soil by Chris Oxlade

### Exploration Activity

#### Digging a Hole: Soil Exploration

Materials: outside place to dig a hole, trowel or shovel, 2 sheets white paper (label one top and one bottom)

Optional tools: magnifying glass

The best way to explore dirt is to get dirty. So we're going to dig a hole. First look at the ground where you're going to dig. Is there grass? Is the ground hard or soft? What does the dirt feel like? What does it smell like? Do you see anything in it? Take a sample and place it on the white paper labeled top. Start digging your hole. Talk about what your doing—is it hard to dig? What does the dirt do as you dig? Dig as deep as you wish (try to dig at least until you notice the soil change). How do the sides of the hole look, can you see variations in the soil, are there lines? Have you come across any creatures while digging? Explore the soil at the bottom of the hole? How does it smell? How does it feel? Does it look different? What color is it? Take some dirt and place it on the sheet labeled bottom. Compare the two soils on each sheet - are they any differences?

Did the kids come up with any questions of their own?



# Learning Activities

## Dirt Pudding

Fun ways to explore the composition layers of soil

Materials: chocolate pudding whip cream, cookies, cups, spoons, plastic sandwich bag

How to:

- Make ahead: the pudding as package instructs
- Place 1 or 2 cookies in the plastic bag, seal and crush cookies until it's in crumbs
- In the cup add a layer of pudding, a layer of cream, continue to the top of the cup. (You can add a layer of cookie crumbs, but you may need to crush more cookies)
- Sprinkle the cookie crumbs over the top. Enjoy

## Soil Observation

Not all the soil is the same and its composition is composed of many layers and soil types. This is an observational exploration of these concepts.

Materials: soil samples from three different areas of your yard, 3 sheets white paper, tweezers, magnifying glass

How to:

- Place a small amount of each soil on a separate sheet of white paper.
- Using the tweezers and magnifying glass observe the soil and what it does to the paper. Does the paper get wet? What is in the soil? What does it smell like? Is it crumbly or clumpy?
- Discuss what you find, explore the differences

## Sand Box Fun

Materials: sand box or an area of dirt

Allow kids to just play!

## Soil Composition

Discover what soil is made of.

Materials: jar with lid, soil dug from ground, water, paper, crayons/pencils/markers (Note: best to do this in the evening)

How to:

- Fill the jar halfway with soil from the ground
- Fill the jar the rest of the way with water and tighten the lids on them
- Shake the jars until well mixed.
- Put the jars down and let the soil settle (best to let it settle overnight)
- The next day - observe the layers the soil settles into. Use the paper and writing utensils to draw what you see in the jar.

## Mud Painting

Materials: water, soil, paper

How to:

- Mix soil and water together until you create mud (experiment with the "wetness" of the mud)
- Use your fingers to paint it onto the paper
- Let it dry overnight.

## To Learn More

- Soil Science Society of America  
[www.soils4kids.org](http://www.soils4kids.org)
- Kids Discover: The Dirt on Soil  
[www.kidsdiscover.com/teacherresources/dirt-soil](http://www.kidsdiscover.com/teacherresources/dirt-soil)
- Dirt Box: Sensory Exploration  
[www.orangemommyco.com/blog/2017/2/1/sensory-box-review-dirt](http://www.orangemommyco.com/blog/2017/2/1/sensory-box-review-dirt)



# Tell Us Ticket

Please return this ticket to the library with your name and phone number and be entered into the end of summer raffle

I learned something new today



I had fun today



I enjoyed this activity



The Science to Go Sheet was easy to understand



Comment:

