

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Soils

Soil is made from four things:

1. rocks
2. water
3. air
4. humus

There are four different types of soil:

1. sand
2. clay
3. silt
4. loam

Different soils have different characteristics:

Type of Soil	Characteristic			
	Colour	Texture	Size of Pieces	Water Drainage
sand	brown	gritty	large	very good
silt			very small	poor
clay	red/brown	powdery, smooth	small	very poor
loam	dark brown	soft		average

When you separate soil by using water:

- |             |                        |
|-------------|------------------------|
| <u>sand</u> | settles on the bottom. |
| <u>silt</u> | settles in the middle. |
| <u>clay</u> | settles on the top.    |

A compost pile takes advantage of nature's recycling system by turning organic waste into a rich soil conditioner called compost. This material will slowly decay over time and go back into the earth. This is called decomposition. Bacteria, fungi and other organisms like earthworms work to breakdown or decompose organic waste. Compost can be used to improve the quality of soil for growing.