

Soil Detective Notes

Students use a pencil tool to observe and record soil color and texture.

SKE2.c "Use tools to observe and record physical attributes of soil such as texture and color."

NAME _____

DATE _____

Teacher: this page is run aloud. The script and answers are on the guide page.

1 SOIL COLORS _____

a	black	brown	tan
b	black	brown	tan

2 SOIL FEEL _____

a	smooth	grainy	crumbly
b	crumbly	smooth	grainy

HOW TO RUN THIS PAGE

Set out two dry soil samples, marked A and B, on separate white papers. Students use a pencil to gently spread the soil, then circle words that record the color and texture they observe.

Students never read directions on this sheet. Read each part's script aloud, then each prompt, giving think time before students mark.

PART 1 • SOIL COLORS

SAY “Use your pencil, not your fingers, to gently spread Sample A on its white paper. Listen as I read the color words, then look closely and circle the color word that matches the soil.”

ROW	SAY	STUDENTS CIRCLE
a	Look at Sample A with your pencil nearby. I will read the words black, brown, and tan. Which color word matches Sample A? Circle it.	brown
b	Look at Sample B with your pencil nearby. I will read the words black, brown, and tan. Which color word matches Sample B? Circle it.	black

PART 2 • SOIL FEEL

SAY “Use your pencil to gently move each soil sample so you can see its tiny pieces. Listen as I read the texture words, then circle the word that matches what you observe.”

ROW	SAY	STUDENTS CIRCLE
a	Look at the tiny pieces in Sample A. I will read the words smooth, grainy, and crumbly. Which word matches Sample A? Circle it.	grainy
b	Look at the tiny pieces in Sample B. I will read the words crumbly, smooth, and grainy. Which word matches Sample B? Circle it.	crumbly

WHAT TO ACCEPT

For the keyed responses, prepare Sample A as dry brown sandy soil and Sample B as dry black crumbly soil. Accept brown and grainy for A, and black and crumbly for B.