

Soils Up Close

A guided soil-tray investigation and recording sheet.

1.10.A “investigate and document the properties of particle size, shape, texture, and color and the components of different types of soils such as topsoil, clay, and sand;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

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

1 LOOK AND CIRCLE _____

a	Sand	Clay	Topsoil
b	Sand	Clay	Topsoil
c	Sand	Clay	Topsoil

2 MATCH CLUES _____

Sand	•	•	Smooth
Clay	•	•	Plants
Topsoil	•	•	Rounded

HOW TO RUN THIS PAGE

Set out three prepared classroom reference trays labeled Sand, Clay, and Topsoil. Use samples with clear contrasts for the spoken questions, rather than mixed outdoor scoops, then read each prompt as students observe the trays and touch only a tiny pinch for the texture question.

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

PART 1 • LOOK AND CIRCLE

SAY “Look closely at the three prepared soil trays. I will read the choices and the question for each row. Circle one soil word for each question.”

ROW	SAY	STUDENTS CIRCLE
a	Look at the tiny pieces in our prepared trays. Which soil has the biggest pieces and the roundest piece shapes, Sand, Clay, or Topsoil? Circle one.	Sand
b	Rub a tiny pinch of each soil when I say. Which soil feels the smoothest, Sand, Clay, or Topsoil? Circle one.	Clay
c	Look closely again. Which soil is darkest and has visible plant pieces, Sand, Clay, or Topsoil? Circle one.	Topsoil

PART 2 • MATCH CLUES

SAY “Look at the soil words on the left and the clue words on the right. Draw a line from each soil word to its matching clue. You may look at the prepared trays again.”

- **Sand** matches **Rounded**
- **Clay** matches **Smooth**
- **Topsoil** matches **Plants**

WHAT TO ACCEPT

Circle rows: Sand, Clay, Topsoil. Match Sand to Rounded, Clay to Smooth, and Topsoil to Plants. Precheck the prepared trays and replace any sample that does not show the named contrast clearly.