


Properties of Soil

SOAR | Sustaining Our Agricultural Resources

Soil Investigation Activity


- With your group, follow the directions and answer questions 1-3 on your “Soil Investigation Worksheet”



Properties of Soil

Properties that contribute to overall soil health:

- Texture
- Structure
- Porosity
- Color



Texture

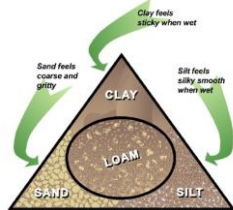
- The size and proportion of mineral particles in the soil:
 - Sand
 - Silt
 - Clay



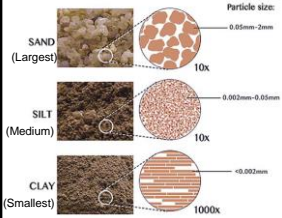


Texture

- Types of soil textures:
 - Coarse- high proportions of sand
 - Medium- high proportions of silt
 - Fine- high proportions of clay



Soil Structure

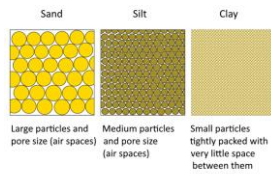


- The way soil particles are grouped together
- The arrangement of:
 - Solids (sand, silt, clay)
 - Pore spaces within soil (air)



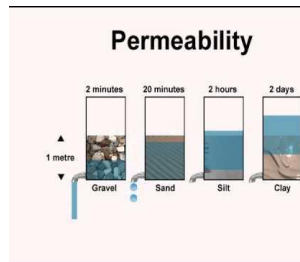
Porosity

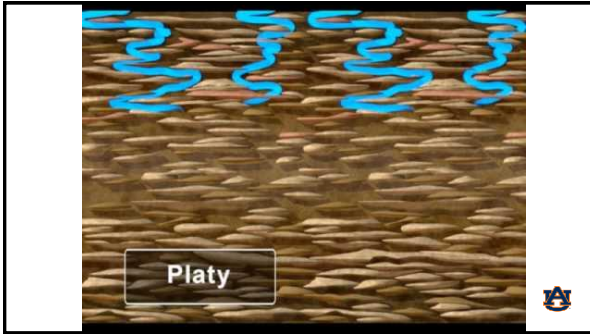
- Refers to the small voids (or spaces) between particles of soil.



Permeability

- Soil's ability to allow air and water to pass through.







Color

- A physical property of soils that describes some of its most important characteristics such as:
 - Available Minerals
 - The presence of Organic Matter
 - Storage of water

Which soil has the most nutrients?

A
B

Activity/EXIT SLIP

1. Answer questions 4-6 on your Soil Investigation Activity Worksheet with your group.
2. Answer questions 1-3 on your Exit Slip