

Soil Shake

Soil Texture Test



Materials

- A clear pint jar with a lid
- A handful of the soil to be sampled
- Water
- Ruler

Shake Up That Soil! Process

- Dig down into your soil about 6 inches to make sure you are getting an accurate sample.
- Scoop a handful of dirt up and transfer it to a clear jar.
- Fill the jar almost to the top with water and put the lid on the jar tightly.
- Shake the jar vigorously for five minutes to make sure any clumps of dirt are broken up.
- Place the jar in a sunny windowsill so that you can see into the jar clearly, and make some observations.

Observation Questions

Check your jar 10 minutes, 1 hour, and 2 days after shaking the soil sample and make observations.

- Which particles settled to the bottom of your jar first?
- How long did it take for all of the sample to settle?

After about two days, you will have your final results!

If clay particles are the smallest and lightest, and sand particles are the largest and heaviest, and silt is in the middle, which layer is which in your jar?

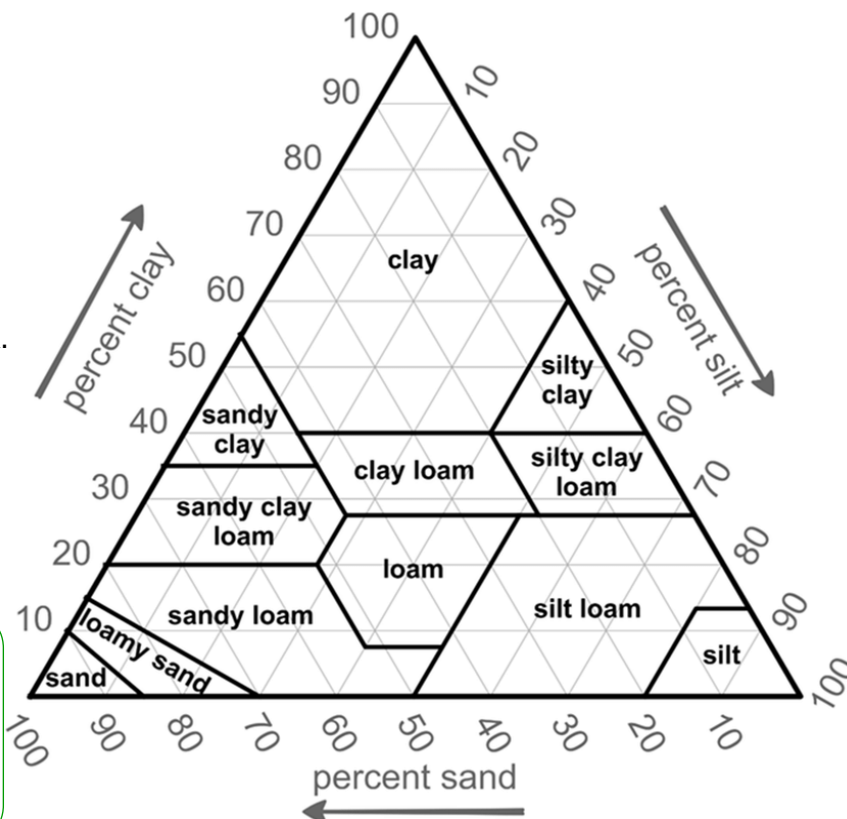
Results

The largest particles have sunk to the bottom and the smallest are on top.

But what does this mean?

The size of the layers determines the percentage of sand, silt and clay in your soil.

Using a ruler, or estimating, determine the ratio of the different sediment types. Then, using the chart, you can determine what type of soil you have!



The Food Literacy Project relishes the chance to help cultivate the joy of learning by doing. Visit our website for more "farm-fresh projects" and show us your dirty hands! Share photos of your family digging-in and add the hashtags #CelerybrateYouth, #RealFoodRealGood and #FoodLitProjLou!