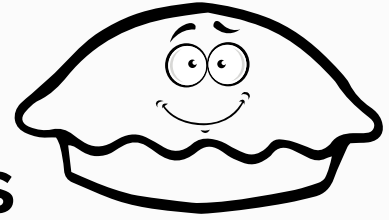




TREEPEOPLE



Mud Pie Explorations

Use your senses to explore different types of soil and end up with mud pies! I mean, who doesn't like to make mud pies? Enjoy this fun science activity to explore the textures of soil and more!

What you will need:

- A trowel or large spoon to collect the soil
- Several bags or other containers to hold the different samples of soil when collecting
- Some baking pans or bowls to hold the different samples of soil for examining
- If you have them, magnifying glasses, tweezers or other tools for examining
- If you have it, a sieve or strainer
- Water

Preparation:

- Look around your area to find more than one kind of soil. Look for dry, hard soil, loose soil, sand, clay, dirt with lots of plant material. The goal is to find different textures and colors to examine up close.
- Use the trowel or spoon to collect about a ½ cup of soil and place the different samples in different bags.
- As you are digging, ask the participants to describe the soil: Is it hard or soft? Wet or dry? What else do you notice?
- Once you have your soil, set up the different bowls and baking pans and place each different kind of soil in a different container.
- Using the worksheet, guide the participants through the explorations using the different samples. If you have them, use magnifying glasses, tweezers, or other observation tools to help in the exploration.

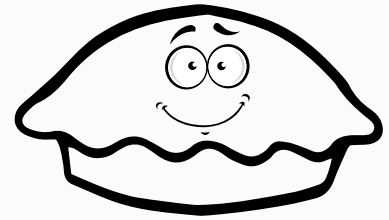
Mud Pies!

After the soil exploration, have fun making mud pies, mud hand prints, mud shapes, mud animals, and more. Be sure to leave some of the mud creations to dry out in the sun - I wonder what will happen?



Name: _____

Age: _____



Soil Sample Worksheet

Copy one, 2-page worksheet for each soil sample

Soil Sample # _____

Explore the soil sample. Circle or fill in your answer:

What kinds of materials did you find?

Leaves

Pebbles

Seed pods

Sticks

Trash

Roots

Other: _____

Did you find things that were once alive?

Parts of bugs

Parts of plants

Other: _____

Did you find things that were never alive?

Rocks

Other: _____

What colors did you find? _____

Looking at all the soil samples, this sample is the:

Lightest color

Darkest color

Other

How does the soil feel? _____

Feeling all the soil samples, this sample is the:

Driest

Wettest

Softest

Grittiest

How does the soil smell? Does it remind you of anything?

When you sift the soil, what things pass through? _____

What things get stuck? _____

Sifting all the samples, this sample is the:

Easiest to sift

Hardest to sift

Other

Add water to the soil sample to get a good mud mixture.

What happened to the soil?

How does the mud sample smell? Does it smell different than before?

How does the mud sample feel different? _____

Feeling all the mud samples, this sample is the:

Smoothest

Stickiest

Grittiest

Can I form a ball with the mud sample? Yes No

Mud Pies!

Have fun making mud pies, mud hand prints, mud shapes, mud animals, and more. Be sure to leave some of the mud creations to dry out in the sun.

If you leave your mud creations out to dry, what do you think will happen?
