

### Activity 6.4

## Properties of Soil

**Warning:** Soil contains microorganisms that can be harmful if they get inside your body. Be sure to wash your hands thoroughly after completing your observations.

### Materials



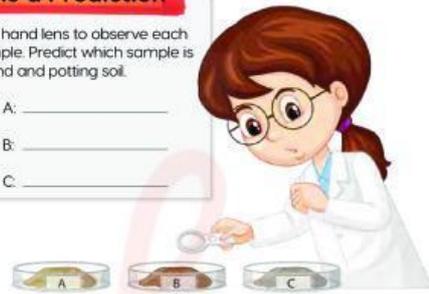
### Make a Prediction

Use the hand lens to observe each soil sample. Predict which sample is clay, sand and potting soil.

Sample A: \_\_\_\_\_

Sample B: \_\_\_\_\_

Sample C: \_\_\_\_\_



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### Procedure

- Spread soil sample A onto the paper towel. Use the hand lens to closely observe the soil particles. Record the properties of the soil including particle size and amount of humus.
- Line the funnel with filter paper. Place two tablespoons of soil sample A into the funnel. Place the funnel of soil on the top of one measuring cylinder.
- Use the other measuring cylinder to pour 100 ml of water into the funnel.
- Using the stopwatch, observe the volume of water that flows through the soil into the measuring cylinder.
- Repeat Steps 1 to 4 for the other soil samples.



### Observations

Use the table to record your observations.

Soil Sample	Properties	Water in Cylinder
A		
B		
C		

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### Analyze and Interpret

- Was your prediction correct? Which type of soil was in each sample?

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- Order the soils by the amount of water that passed through, from the least (1) to the most (3).

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

- Which type of soil do you think would be the best for growing plants? Explain your answer.

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- Which type of soil would not be suitable for growing plants? Explain your answer.

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