

Topic: Soil

Characteristics (description) of Soil:

Write the words that are used to describe these characteristics of soil.

(**Consistence** , **Texture**, **Color**)

	Grainy–large sized pieces, feels gritty like sand Silky–medium sized pieces, feels powdery like silt Sticky–small pieces, feels gummy like wet clay
	Brown, gray, reddish, and combinations of all three of those colors
	Loose–breaks apart when held Friable – breaks with small amount of pressure from one finger Firm – breaks with a lot of pressure between two fingers

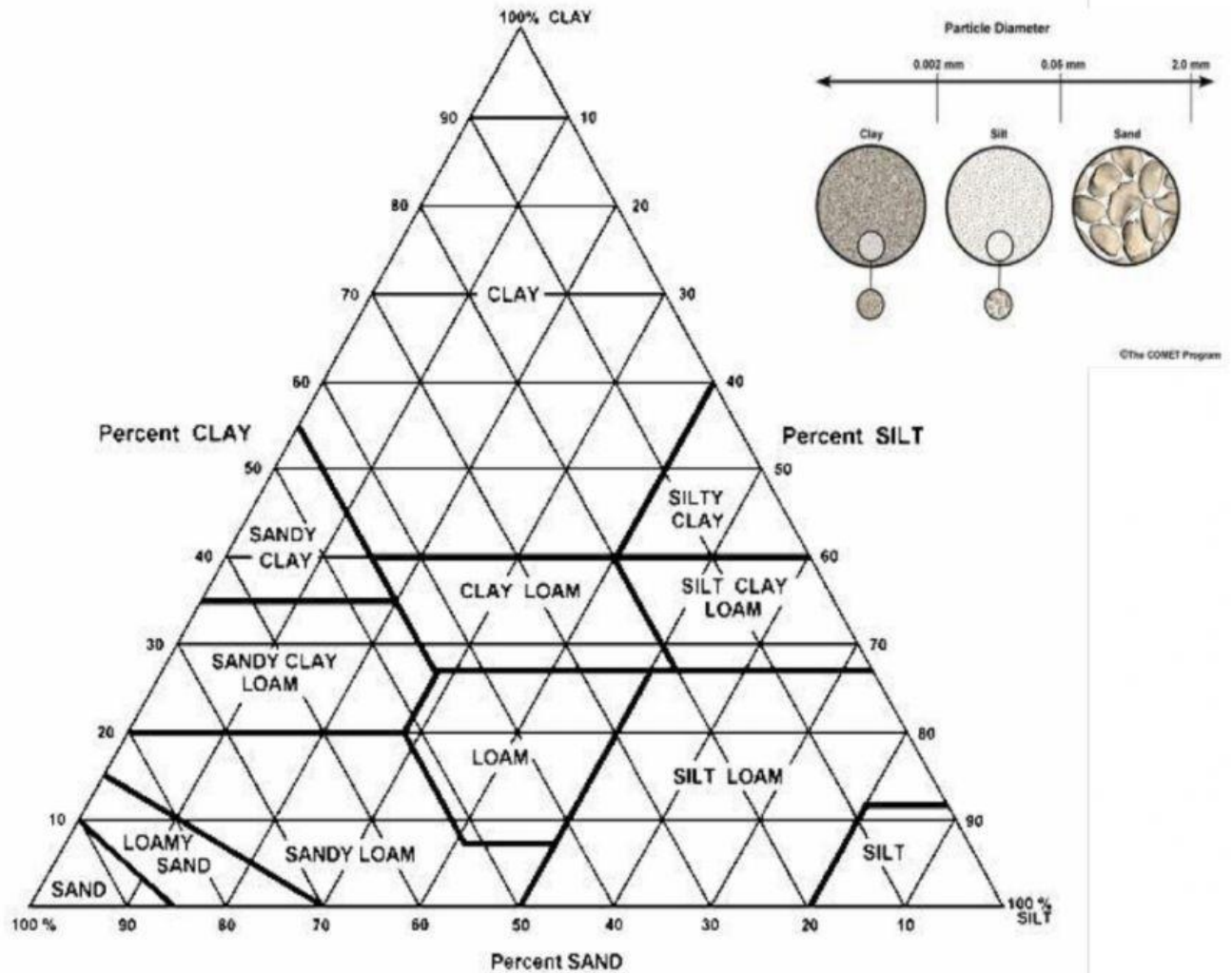
Composition of Soil:

Write facts about the following words. (ex. Particle size, where it is found, etc.)

(**Silt** , **Nutrients**, **Sand**, **Organic Matter**, **Clay**)

	Smaller than sand, bigger than clay (medium sized pieces - .002mm-.05mm)
	Smallest pieces of rock in soil – so small they can't be seen w/o a microscope
	Largest pieces of rock in soil -.05-2.0mm –largest are less than 1/5 of a centimeter –called "grains" –easily visible but not as big as pebbles
	Comes from decomposing organic matter like plants and animals –"organic" refers to material from living organisms
	Organic matter breaks until it becomes basic chemicals –they are important for plant growth –plant roots absorb nutrients

THE SOIL TEXTURAL TRIANGLE PRACTICE



4. Now it is your turn to use the Soil Texture Triangle.

Soil Textural Triangle Practice Exercises

	% Sand	% Silt	% Clay	Texture Name
a)	75	10	15	sandy loam
b)	10	83	7	_____
c)	20	20	70	_____

Soil Texture Worksheet

Directions: Using your soil texture chart and example, determine the following soil textures using the percentages given.

	% sand	% silt	% clay	Soil Texture
<i>example</i>	75	10	15	<i>sandy loam</i>
a)	42	_____	37	_____
b)	_____	52	21	_____
c)	_____	35	50	_____
d)	64	30	_____	_____
e)	50	_____	40	_____

Now for a challenge:

f)	36	_____	_____	Clay Loam
g)	_____	_____	42	Silty Clay
h)	_____	_____	_____	Loamy sand
i)	_____	_____	_____	silt loam
j)	52	_____	_____	sandy clay loam

Make your own!!

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____