

Grade 6—8 B Writing

Part B: Soil Testing

Sandra needs to grow a vegetable garden at school for her science class. She wants to choose the place with the best soil for growing vegetables. To collect data, she pushed the pointed end of each tool into the soil at different locations around her school.

Tools to Collect Data about Soil

Tool	What It Shows	Levels in Ideal Soil
pH Meter 	How acidic (or alkaline) the soil is	pH of 6.0–6.5 (slightly acidic)
Moisture Meter 	How wet or dry the soil is	Moist
Soil Thermometer 	How warm or cool the soil is	65°F– 70°F

Data Collected by Sandra

Location	pH	Moisture	Temperature
West Side of School	5.5	Wet	63°F
East Side of School	7.5	Dry	65°F
South Side of School	6.5	Moist	70°F

Results

The Best Soil: South Side of School

Now it's your turn to write!

Look at the information about soil testing tools and the data Sandra collected. Write at least 8 sentences explaining how Sandra used each tool to choose the best place to plant a vegetable garden.