**S O I L A N A L Y S I S**

**What is this soil? We are gonna break it down.**

*By the end of this analysis, you will write a CHARACTERIZATION which will help you make decisions!*

**1. First step: Major Constituent (AKA Main Ingredient)**

Is this soil sample MOSTLY:

Gravel

Sand

Silt

Clay

To ﬁnd out, grab a handful of it.

a) If you squish it in your hands, can you make a ball with it?

NO  YES

If **NO**! Guess what, it’s either **Gravel** or **Sand**. So, can you see a bunch of little rocks?

NO  YES

Or not? If **YES**! Guess what, it’s either **Silt** or **Clay**:

b) Can you roll it into a thin pencil shape?

NO  YES

If **NO**! It WON’T roll into a pencil shape - You got **SILT,** baby!

If **YES**! It WILL roll into a pencil shape - It’s **CLAY.**

**2. Second step: Color**

Click or tap here to enter text.

*Yeah, yeah, it’s brown, but what kind of brown?*

*Light? Dark? Chocolate? Fine mahogany? Beige? Hot cocoa? Greyish?*

*Milky coffee? Oreo cookie? Rusty? Pale? Deep?*

**3. Third step: Moisture**

● Is it **dry** like **dust**?

● Is it **moist** like a **sponge**?

● Is it **wet** like total **mud**?

**4. Fourth step: Minor Constituents (AKA Other Ingredients)**

Even though in #1 we ﬁgured out what the soil MOSTLY is, do you think there are other particles in it too? How much? Like 5%? ¼? 2 pieces? Guessing is OK!

What How Much?

* Gravel Click or tap here to enter text.
* Sandy Click or tap here to enter text.
* Silty Click or tap here to enter text.
* Clayey Click or tap here to enter text.

**5. Fifth step: Density (AKA soft or hard?)**

In #1, did you get **Gravel or Sand**? If yes, mark an X on this line to say if it was:

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Very loose Loose Kind of Dense Dense Very Dense

*(Not hard at all) (VERY hard & packed)*

OR In #1, did you get **Silt or Clay**? If yes, mark an X on this line to say if it was:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Very soft Soft Kind of Stiff Stiff Very Stiff Very HARD

**6. Sixth step: We put it all together in one sentence!**

**My soil is:**

Click or tap here to enter text., Click or tap here to enter text., Click or tap here to enter text.,

Answer #1 IN ALL CAPS Answer #2 Color Answer #3 Moisture

Click or tap here to enter text., and Click or tap here to enter text..

Answer #4 What and how much Answer #5 Density