

Investigating Types of Soil

Activity Mission 3

Objectives

Observe the appearance and texture of different kinds of soil

Determine which type of soil or mixtures of soils are best for growing certain plants

Initial Questions

Materials

- Soil samples
- pans or small containers for investigation
- magnifying glasses
- radish seedlings
- peat pots or Styrofoam cups for planting

Procedure

1. Place about 1 cup of sand into a pan. Repeat this for the other soil samples you have to observe.
2. Using the magnifying glass, observe each type of soil. Draw a picture of the types of particles found in each soil type. Were there rocks? Living things? What else?
3. Once the observation activity is complete, take the soil samples and plant ~10 radish seeds in each type of soil. Record how long it takes for each set of seeds to germinate.
4. If desired, at the same time, mix some of the soils together in different ratios and add seeds to these containers. Record how long it takes for each set of seeds to germinate.

Questions

What were the differences in the types of soils?

What differences, if any, did you observe in germination rates?

If you continue to let the radish seedlings grow in your soil samples, do you think you will observe any differences in the appearance or growth of the plants? Why or why not?