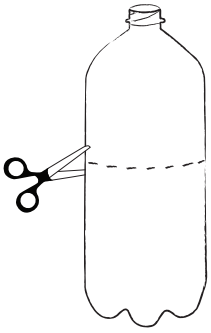
Student Handout:

Water Holding Capacity Test

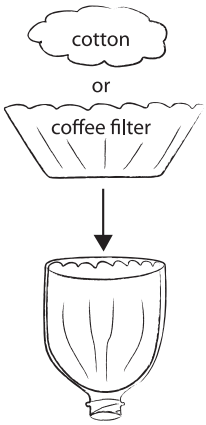
1. Cut a 2 liter bottle in half.



2. In the top half of the bottle, place a coffee filter or cotton balls the neck. This will prevent soil from falling through the opening (see picture to right).

3. Place the top half upside down into the bottom half.

4. Pack 1 cup of soil into the top of the bottle.



5. Slowly pour 1 cup (16 ounces) of water into the soil.

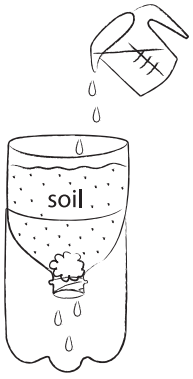
6. Observe for 5 minutes.

7. Measure (in ounces) the water that passed through the soil and collected in the bottom of the bottle.

8. Calculate the water held by the soil:

Water Added - Water Collected = Water Held By Soil

_____ - _____ = _____



"For every 16 ounces of water added to our garden soil, ____ ounces can be held and stored."