

FLASH BACK

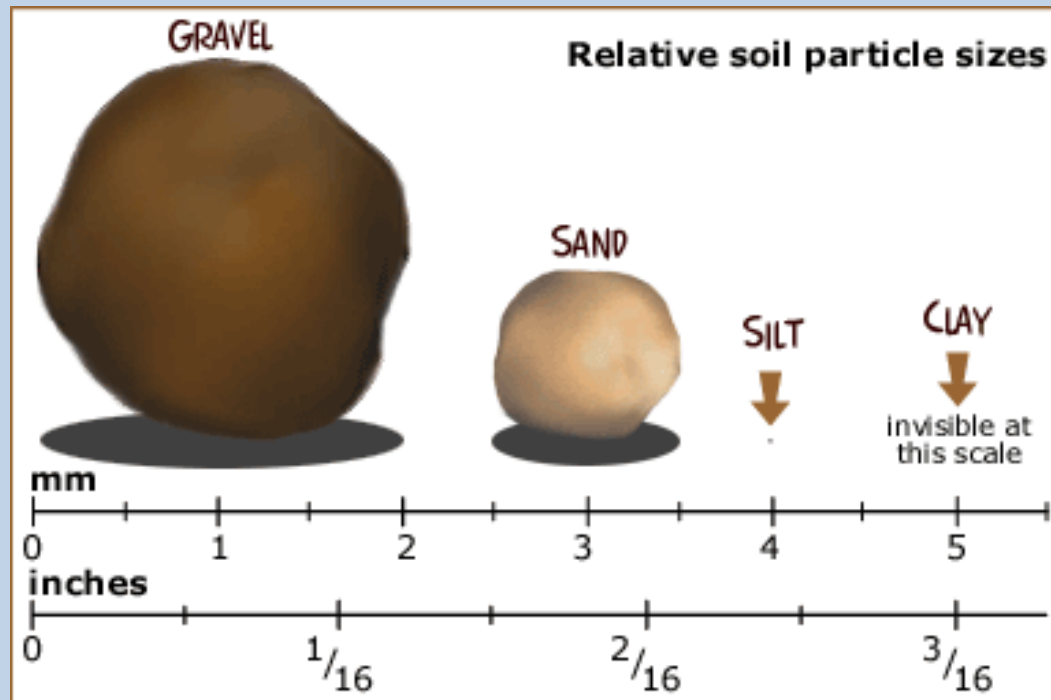
- We collected soil and analyzed its physical characteristics.
- We looked at:
 - physical texture [some parts chunky, some parts loose]
 - color [dark brown]
 - smell [earthy & fresh -> upland soil]
 - moisture content by feel – [damp]
 - types of organic material – [roots, twigs, leaves, worms, beetles, bugs]

THE **BIG** IDEA...

- Soil is a complex ecosystem that supports life at many different levels.
- The structure and properties of soil determine its function and ability to support life.
- We are looking at the interaction between different communities and abiotic factors within the same environment – in SOIL.
- **HOW DO THE PROPERTIES OF SOIL ALLOW IT TO SUPPORT LIFE???**

SOIL TEXTURE

- The first property of soil we will look at is its **TEXTURE**.
- **Texture** refers to the amount of sand, silt and clay particles found in soil.



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES...

- 2 methods to measure soil texture: by hand and by measurement – placing soil in water and let the soil settle.
 - Measuring using water -
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knrmCbctGEA>
 - Measuring by hand -
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOyaBxj767s>
- **EVERYONE has to texture soil by hand****

REFLECTION...

- How does knowing about the texture of soil help us understand how soil supports life?
- How does knowing about the soil profile help us understand how soil supports life?