

Describe three ways that soil organisms have an ecological impact on soil.

- aerate the soil
- break down organic matter
- "beneficial" organisms sometimes eat "harmful" ones
- can keep overall populations balanced

mites
springtails
centipedes
millipedes
earthworms
nematodes

} pick one

per 6 an an org research
name

Water in the soil

- Water is weird and cool

- Water is sticky

beneficial/
problematic
for plants

- It sticks to stuff

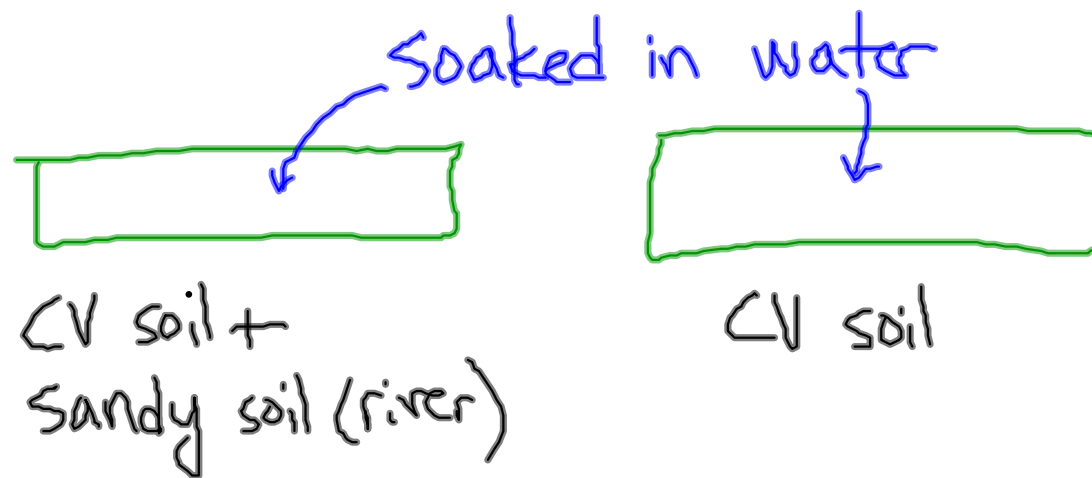
- It sticks to itself

- Soil is weird and cool

- It is electrically charged — this affects how soil interacts with water and nutrients (which are electrically charged)



Soil texture influences the amount of water in soil

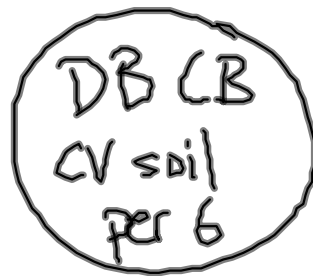


We're going to measure soil water holding capacity: How much water sticks to each of these different soil types?

In groups of three, grab two petri dishes.

On the bottom, put your initials + "per 6"

Label one "CV soil" and the other "CV+river soil"



• Find the mass of each dish when empty

• Find mass of each dish w/ 3-4 Spoonfuls of the appropriate soil

just soil, no liquid water →