

Close Reading and Text Dependent Questions in Science What Is in Soil? (Pebbles, Sand, and Silt – Grade 2)

The text selection, *What Is in Soil?*, is found in *FOSS Science Stories, Pebbles, Sand, and Silt*, pgs. 20-24.



Look in the Student Learning Outcome Document for guidance on when this should be taught.
<http://bpscurriculumandinstruction.weebly.com/student-learning-outcomes-by-grade.html>

What Is in Soil? (Pebbles, Sand, and Silt – Grade 2)

Student Questions

1. What types of rocks can be found in soil?
2. What is humus?
3. According to page 21, what are two reasons why humus is an important part of soil?
4. What does the word burrow mean on page 22?
5. How does the worm's burrowing behavior affect plants?

6. Look at the pictures on page 23. Use a T-chart to compare the soils in the pictures.

Soil (left side)	Soil (right side)

7. Imagine you are an oak tree. Looking at the pictures on page 23, which soil will provide a healthier environment for you to grow? Use evidence from the text to support your claim.

What Is in Soil? (Pebbles, Sand, and Silt – Grade 2) Sample Answers

1. What types of rocks can be found in soil?

Soil contains tiny rocks called silt (and bigger rocks as well). Sand, clay, gravel, and pebbles can also be in soil.

2. What is humus?

Humus is the part of soil, which consists of decayed plants and animals.

3. According to page 21, what are two reasons why humus is an important part of soil?

Humus provides nutrients for plants and helps the soil hold water.

4. What does the word burrow mean on page 22?

The word “burrow” means to move through soil by breaking it apart and eating it.

5. How does the worm’s burrowing behavior affect plants?

When worms burrow through the soil they break it apart and eat the humus. They help plants by mixing and turning the soil.

6. Look at the pictures on page 23. Use a T-chart to compare the soils in the pictures.

Soil (left side)	Soil (right side)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>dark brown in color, more humus</i> • <i>a lot of roots</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>lots of big rocks</i> • <i>grayish in color, lots of sand</i> • <i>roots</i>

7. Imagine you are an oak tree. Looking at the pictures on page 23, which soil will provide a healthier environment for you to grow? Use evidence from the text to support your claim.

An oak tree would grow better in the soil on the left. The soil on the left has more humus. Humus helps soil hold water, which the oak tree needs to grow. Also, the soil on the left does not have big rocks. This would make it easier for a large oak tree to put down big roots.