



Soil Exploration Activity Guide

Materials Needed:

1. Soil Exploration scavenger hunt worksheet (second page)
2. Shovel
3. Paper plate or tray for collecting and sorting
4. Colored pencils, crayons, or pens

Activity Instructions:

1. Find a place outside in your backyard or at a park where you can dig without disturbing any established landscaping. You will find a lot of life in rich, moist soil, especially after it has rained! Try a spot near the base of a tree, or around the edging of a lawn or field. Soil critters love to hide in damp, dark places away from sunlight, so be sure to look underneath rocks or other objects.
2. Using your shovel, loosen the soil and begin your search! Sort what you find onto a tray or paper plate. If you find any living creatures, remember to handle them with respect!
3. Once you have found something on the scavenger hunt, color in the picture with crayons or colored pencils. Can you find them all?
4. What did you find the most of? What was the most difficult to find? Why might this be?

Modifications

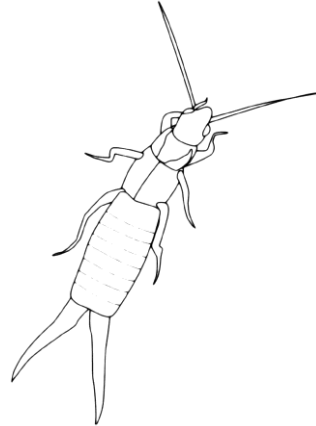
- If you don't have a shovel, use a stick, an old spoon, or your hands to loosen up the soil.
- If you cannot bend down or sit on the ground, sit at a table and have a helper bring you a couple of shovels of soil on a tray or plate that you can sort through.
- If you can't find any critters, but can find a lot of roots, sticks, or rocks, sort each into categories: small, medium, and large. What did you find the most of? Which category is the biggest?



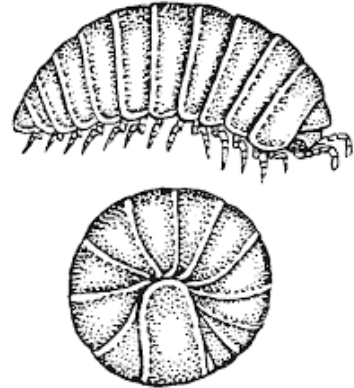
Let's explore the soil! What do you see?



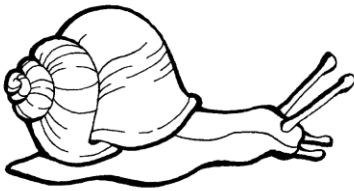
Worm



Earwig



Roly Poly



Snail

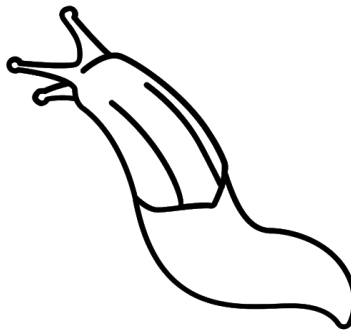
Free Space! Draw something you found in the soil!



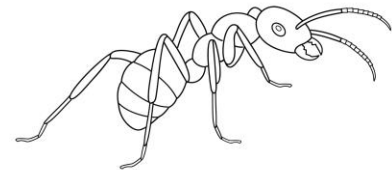
Rocks



Roots



Slug



Ant