



Investigation 2:

Separating Soil by Settling



Key Question

Before you begin, first think about this key question.

How can soil be separated?

In the last investigation you found out that soil is a mixture of many things. Think about how you could separate the materials that make up soil.

Share your ideas with others in your class.



Materials Needed

For this investigation your group will need:

- 2 clear-plastic 300 mL (10 oz.) cups (if your school has tall 1-liter graduated cylinders, they would be even better than plastic cups)
- soil sample from your local area
- 250 mL (8 oz.) cup of water
- stopwatch or watch with second hand
- plastic drinking straw



Investigate

1. By making observations, you are going to investigate how soil materials fall through air and through water.

Place two clear plastic cups side by side on a table.