



Inquiry

The Importance of Evidence

The word **evidence** may be familiar to you in criminal investigations. However, evidence is also important in science. In science, valid conclusions depend on evidence that can be trusted. Others should be able to do the same experiment and come up with the same evidence.



Clean up any spills immediately.



5. Look at the prediction you made and the reason you gave for your prediction.

If something different happened from what you expected, discuss what the reasons might be.

- a) How accurate was your prediction?
 - b) Did anything happen that you were not expecting? If so, what?
 - c) Does your reason make good sense?
 - d) If necessary, rewrite your reason to include any new information or ideas you have. Base your explanation on the evidence you have.
6. Allow your water and soil mixture to settle for 5 minutes. Make observations every minute during this time.
 - a) Record everything you observe. An example of a data table is given below. You can change it to suit your needs.

Time (minutes)	Observations
After 1	
After 2	
After 3	
After 4	
After 5	

7. Stir your soil and water mixture with the drinking straw, then let it settle.

Observe what is happening to the soil particles in the water. Note if all particles are behaving in the same way.

- a) Record your observations.
- b) How can you explain what you observe?