

DESERT WONDERS

What is Soil?

- Soil Super Ingredients: Organic matter from living things, minerals from eroded rocks, plus gases, water, and cool tiny organisms!
- Soil Layers (Horizons): Like a cake, soil has different layers that form over time.



Hey Junior Explorers!
Did you know that desert soil is like a superhero? It's full of amazing secrets that help everything in the desert live and grow.

Why is Soil Super Important?

- Home Sweet Home: Soil is where plants grow, storing their food and water.
- Nature's Recycling Bin: Soil breaks down waste and helps make the desert clean.
- Beneath Your Feet: We need soil to grow food, for animals to build homes, and for plants to grow, even for fun things like playing in the mud!

DESERT SOIL DETECTIVE

What's in Soil?

- Sand, silt, clay, and sometimes rock and gravel.



Soil Textures:

- Rock and Gravel: Helping water move through soil.
- Sand: Tiny grains that let water flow but don't hold much of it.
- Silt: Super fine particles that hold water better than sand.
- Clay: Teeny tiny particles that hold water and nutrients well but can be too tight for plant roots.



THE MASON JAR SOIL TEST!

Let's Experiment: Fill a mason jar with soil, add water, shake it up, and see how the soil separates into layers of sand, silt, and clay!