Living SOIL

Pre Activity, all ages

- Students take a soil sample from their neighborhoods and bring it to class. Discuss what is in the sample and what it looks like, where did it come from? How have humans impacted the soil?

Soil Sample Map

Post Activity 2nd to 8th grade

Activity:
Break students into groups of 3 and have them choose an open area in the soil that they want to investigate. Have students divide the area into 2 feet by 2 feet squares. Find out what’s in the soil in each square. They can write or draw everything there is to see in each square.

After students have had time to observe their square have each group share out a summary of what they have found while thinking about these questions:
- What color is it?
- What texture is it?
- Do you see very many rocks in the soil?
- Is this soil moist or dry?
- Does it have any insects in it?
- Does the soil look different from square to square?
- Do you think this soil would be good to grow plants in? Why or why not?
  - What could we do to make this soil better?