

WHAT MAKES SOIL?

Focus Lesson: What Makes Soil?

Materials:

Dirt by Steve “The Dirtmeister” Tomecek
 Buckets
 Dirt
 Leaves
 Water
 Other materials to make soil (as requested by students)

Time: Two 45 minute lessons

***Common Core Standards:**
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.7

Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., read a number of books on a single topic to produce a report; record science observations).

Thinking Skill: Planning, Organization

Objective:

Students will understand the different components that make up soil, but that time is also necessary for those components to decompose and turn into soil.

Connection:

Students will see how materials in nature become soil and how that relates to decomposition over time.

Explicit Instruction:

Ask students what they think soil is made of. Read pages 8-13 in *Dirt* by Steve “The Dirtmeister” Tomecek. What did they learn soil was made of? What do they need to make their own soil? Have students make a list of materials that they will need to make their own soil. Either have students bring in these materials from home or bring in these materials yourself for students.

Guided Practice:

In small groups, have students come up with step by step instructions for how to make their own soil. Prompt them to think about where they will put the soil. Will they mix it? How much?

On Day 2, have students follow the plan they created to make their own soil

Independent Practice:

Ask students to answer the following questions: What does the soil look like? Does it look like soil you would find outside? What is missing?

Reflection – Group Share:

Bring the group back together and ask them to share their responses with a partner and then with the class. When discussing what they think is missing, make sure they see that what is missing is time.

Read pages 20-21 in *Dirt* by Steve “The Dirtmeister” Tomecek. Point out the time difference between the pictures.

Reading List:

Dirt by Steve “The Dirtmeister” Tomecek

Teacher Note: