



BE AN EARTH ROVER

Grade 3 | 90 Minutes

Program Overview

Description

This field trip provides students with real world experience getting their hands dirty exploring the soil and rocks that make up our planet Earth. Students explore “investigation stations” and embark on a hike to conduct soil composition surveys in Huntington Reservation.

Adult chaperones recommended: 5

Subject	Gr	Ohio Department of Education Standards
Life Science	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Earth’s nonliving resources have specific properties.• Earth’s resources can be used for energy.• Some of Earth’s resources are limited.

Vocabulary

composition	particles
dirt	property
erosion	grains
moisture level	soil
organic material	texture

Book we recommend

- Life in a Bucket of Soil by Dover Children’s Science Books, 2000.
- How Mountains Are Made by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld. HarperCollins, 2005.

Post-Trip Activities

- Write a story pretending you are an alien scientist visiting Earth that wants to explore Ohio's soil. Use descriptive words and vocabulary to tell a story about their experience as an Earth rover.
- Design and construct a pond, water garden or a wetland environment in a terrarium. Evaluate different soil types to ensure that the chosen soil is able to hold water and support plant life. Present the explanation of the process and the findings to the class. Plant seeds in a container of 1-sand, 2-rocks and 3-soil. Which plant sprouts first? Which plant grows the tallest?

Other Resources:

- Read an article about one of the Mars rovers.
- Suggested Web Resource for teachers: www.soils4teachers.org
- Suggested Web Resources for kids: www.soils4kids.org