

Soil Brainstorm – Teacher Notes

This activity will outline the extent of student’s prior knowledge and vocabulary.

Descriptive words should be chosen to be:

Objective (mean the same to everyone) such as “red, or grey” or “fine grained”.

Not subjective (reflecting personal opinion which may not be shared by everyone) such as “nice”, “big” or “horrible”.



What do soils look like?

Colours –red/brown/grey/patchy

Wet/moist/dry

What do soils smell like?

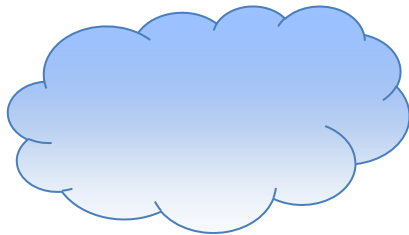
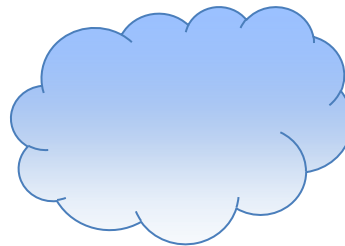
Soils only smell when they are moist.

The smell is due to humus.



What do soils feel like?

Damp/gritty/smooth.



Are soils a resource? What are they used for?

Making gardens/growing vegetables/feeding cows/building mud brick houses, making ceramics

Definition of a soil

Weathered rock fragments mixed with living things and their products.

Why is soil a resource? Because they are useful to humans.