

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Good Soil and Bad Soil - PPP

We have been studying "soils" in our Science class. If you give your student:

- An empty jam jar or small cool drink bottle.
- Enough soil from your garden to 1/3 fill the container.
- Enough water to 2/3 fill the container.

They will tell you how much humus is in your garden soil by sealing and shaking the container.

Humus is a wonderful soil conditioner. It is made from living and dead matter. It not only retains moisture in the soil, it helps the soil retain fertiliser and grow healthy plants.

An experiment to demonstrate this at home



### Materials

- Two containers such as plant pots or yoghurt pots. (Make sure there are holes in the bottom to allow water to drain away.)
- Permanent ink labeling pen
- Two different soils (perhaps one from the garden and another from the roadside).
- Fast growing seeds such as alfalfa, mung beans or peas

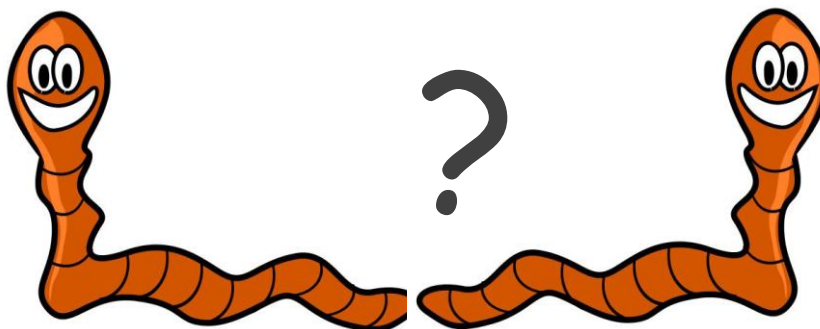
Name \_\_\_\_\_

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### Method

1. Label the containers 1 and 2.
2. Place equal quantities of soil in each container.
3. Add seed and cover lightly with more soil
4. Water lightly
5. Place in a sunny area and water when dry. (Soil needs watering when it doesn't stick to a dry finger).

Please note - The first days a seed grows it is dependent on the food supply it already has within the seed and will not be immediately affected by a poor soil. After a couple of weeks however, when its own supply has been exhausted, the effect of soil differences on plant growth will be more obvious.



Ask your science students what part worms play in having a healthy soil.

**Happy Soil Science!**