

Name _____

Date _____

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Investigation 4: Soil and Water

Our study of rock sizes led us to a study of soil. We now know that soil is mostly rock particles and some humus.

One important property of soil is its water content. Soil scientists often do tests to see how quickly water soaks into and passes through the soil. This is called permeability. Test and compare the permeability of soil in two or more places around where you live.

Use a trowel or metal spoon to dig a shallow hole in the soil, maybe the size of a soda can, but not very deep. Pour in about a cup of water and time how long the water takes to completely soak into the soil. Compare flower beds, gardens, edges of lawns, paths, sandboxes, and so on. Keep track of the time needed to soak into different soils and collect a little sample of the soil.

Remember, in order to compare, the holes should be the same size, and the amount of water should always be the same.

Record your results. Write about what you find out.