

## SOIL ACTIVITY #1



FIRST, explain to the children that soil is the upper part of the crust of the Earth. This part is important so plants can grow to provide food for you and animals. There are 3 kinds of minerals in soil: Sand, Silt, and Clay.

1. Ask for 7 volunteers. Six stand in a straight line representing mineral particles in soil. The 7<sup>th</sup> person will represent water.
2. The 6 hold their arms straight out and touch fingertips. These are SAND particles. **WATER** flows or moves in and out between them. Since SAND particles are large, it is easy for **WATER** to move between the particles.
3. The 6 put their hands on their hips and touch elbows. These are SILT particles. Put arms down and **WATER** flows between them. SILT particles are smaller so it is more difficult (but not impossible) for the **WATER** to move between the particles.
4. Last, the 6 hold their arms at their sides and move so they are touching shoulders. These are CLAY particles. **WATER** tries to flow between them. Since CLAY particles are the smallest and closest together, it is almost impossible for **WATER** to move between the particles.

Ask them questions:

- 1) Which kind of soil particles is water hard to flow through? (Clay)
- 2) Which kind of soil particles are easiest for water to flow through? (Sand)
- 3) Which kind of soil particles are in between Clay and Sand? (Silt)

Soil to grow plants needs a mixture of all three of these particles.