

HomeTalk

thoughtful conversations for families and schools

Let's talk about...

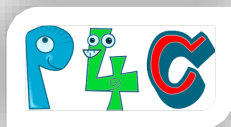
Soil

compiled by *Dulcinea Norton-Morris* <https://magicalmess.weebly.com/beautiful-thinking.html>



Photo by Jing via Pixabay

Note to parents/carers and teachers
This pack contains links to external websites. Whilst we take every care to make sure these are suitable, you may want to check the content before showing them to children.



To get HomeTalk emailed every week
message bobhouse@dialogueworks.co.uk

Quotes about soil

Essentially, all life depends on the soil.



Charles Kellogg
Naturalist

When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.



Aldo Leopold
Scientist, scholar, writer and philosopher

Collaboration has no hierarchy. The Sun collaborates with soil to bring flowers on the earth.



Amit Ray
writer

Thinking about soil

Caring thinking

Why is soil important for the world?

Collaborative thinking

Which organisations or businesses do you think should work together to preserve healthy soil?



Creative thinking

How many things that you use today needed soil in order to exist? For example, why was soil needed for your favourite book to be made?

Critical thinking

Do we need World Soil Day?
Who is responsible for keeping soil healthy?

Have you ever felt soil in your hands or under your feet?

What would happen if we didn't have enough soil?

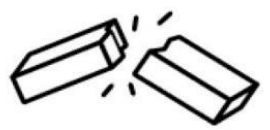
In what ways is soil the same everywhere?



Think **AHEAD**

Think **BACK**

CONNECT



DIVIDE

LISTEN/LOOK

ZOOM (in/out)

In what ways is soil different in different countries/places?

Lie down and look at the soil for a while. How many signs of life can you see?

As you walk around today make a list of the different places that you see soil.

Plant a green bean in a glass full of soil and watch the process as your bean grows roots and a shoot.

Discussion suggestions (age 3 – 5)

Stimulus



Put in water.

Mix in sand.

0:17 / 0:48

<https://youtu.be/1WP-gsOQjNs>

The Mud Pie

(Oxford Reading Tree)

In this story we see a little boy making a mud pie.

Talking Points

- What is the difference between mud and soil?
- What do we need soil for?
- Do you like making mud pies?
- Would you like to eat a mud pie?

Activities

- Set up a mud kitchen. If you already have one make a list of the new things you would like to have in there.
- Make a mud pie.
- Make a recipe for the perfect mud pie.

Discussion suggestions (age 6 - 9)

Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/Q-J2FErZHuA>

SciShow Kids – Soil is Alive!

All about the life in the soil

Talking Points

- How many uses for soil did you see?
- How do things that live under the soil help to keep soil healthy?
- Can you say two things that you learnt about soil from the video that you didn't know before?

Activities

- Take soil samples from different places and look at them carefully. If you have a magnifying glass you can look even more closely. Are the samples all the same? How are they different?
- Learn all about the tardigrade.

Discussion suggestions (age 10+)

Stimulus

World Soil Day



<https://youtu.be/YtWlRppaarI>

World Soil Day (5th December)

In this clip we see Vamshika talking enthusiastically about soil. How many facts can you hear her say?

Talking Points

- What is the difference between 'live soil' and 'dead soil'?
- Have you ever thought about soil being alive?
- What do you think makes soil 'die'?

Activities

- Go to the World Soil Day area of the United Nations website and find out all about how the salt content in soil can cause big problems
<https://tinyurl.com/3hzbt7ej>
- Form a Soil Superhero group in class or in your family. Look around your local area or your school grounds and find places where there might be 'dead soil'. Research ways in which you can help soil to recover.

[➤ More about HomeTalk, including previous editions](#)

[➤ Parent Talk Moves – tips for great conversations with your children](#)

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Training opportunities for teachers, support staff and parents

P4C Plus Foundation course (12hrs)

Teaching that puts more thinking into learning

- Introduces you to **P4C Plus** and builds your skills over the first year of practice
- Equips you with a range of skills to use in P4C inquiries and throughout the curriculum
- Includes premium resources and teacher guide

Thinking Moves A – Z course (6hrs)

Making metacognition simple across the curriculum

- Shows you how **Thinking Moves** can enhance thinking in any subject, as well as in P4C inquiries
- Gives you practical guidance on how to embed Thinking Moves into learning
- Includes premium resources and handbook

Both courses available online or face-to-face, for individuals or whole-school teams

See <https://dialogueworks.co.uk/training/> for upcoming courses

Contact enquiries@dialogueworks.co.uk for bookings or more information