

SOIL SLURRY:

Exploring Clay, Silt & Sand

This is the soil in Jackie's Garden...



There are three types of soil particles. Sand is the largest. Silt is 10 times smaller than sand. Clay is 100 times smaller than sand. If a grain of sand was the size of a beachball, silt would be the size and shape of frisbee, and a clay particle would be the size and shape of a dime.

sand



silt



clay



Materials:

glass quart jar
with lid
soil sample
water

Instructions:

Collect soil from garden. Pick out sticks, stones, and debris. Fill jar 1/4 with soil. Fill 2/3 with water. Screw on lid. Shake! Wait!
Check after one hour, two hours, one day...
The largest and heaviest particles fall to the bottom. Smaller particles float to the top.

Observations:

How many layers do you see?

Which layer is largest?

