

Mud Experiment

What is mud? It's soft, squelchy brown stuff, also known as SOIL. But what actually IS mud? Here's an experiment you can do to find out more...



With your grown-up, collect some mud in a jar.



Add some water, put the lid on and shake to mix.



Leave the watery mud to settle overnight.

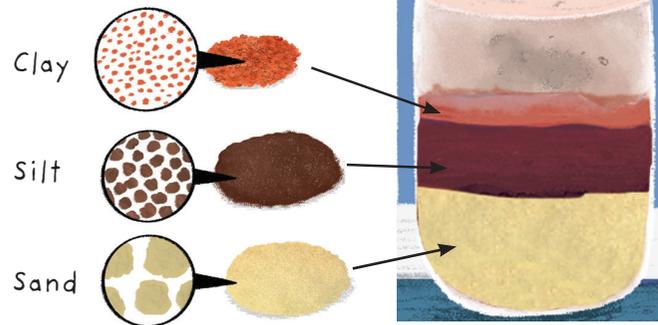


See the different layers the next day.

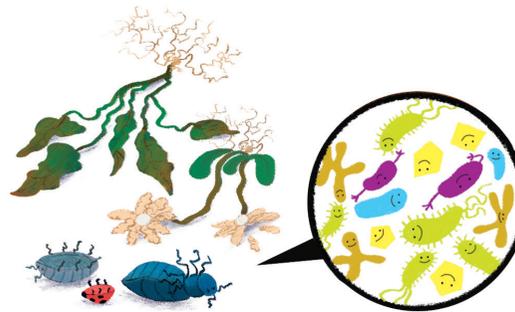


Take a closer look in the jar...

The bottom layers are different rock types. (You might just have one or two types.)



The water above gets its colour and floaty bits from mud's magic ingredient - ORGANIC MATTER.



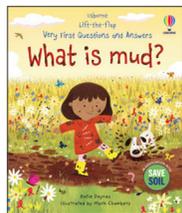
Organic matter is dead stuff, rotted down by microbes, and it's what makes mud so marvellous.

Now you know mud's secret recipe!



And here are some of the marvellous things it can do.

- GROW PLANTS (and give us food)
- SOAK UP RAIN (and stop flooding)
- FILTER WATER (so it's clean to drink)
- STORE CARBON (to slow down climate change)



Usborne Activities

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