

Soil Sleuths Lab Worksheet

Name/s: _____

Date: _____

Part One – If it feels good.

Sample name	Texture (gritty, slippery, sticky, etc.)	Color (dark brown, gray, yellow, red, etc.)	Smell (earthy, sweet, sour, etc.)	What signs of life and organic matter (worms, leaves, bugs, etc.)

a. How did the soil samples differ?

b. How were they the same?

c. Which soil would you want to grow a plant in and why?

Part Two (switch roles)

Sample name	Ball: Did it form a ball? Did it hold together when pushed?	Ribbon: Length of ribbon in inches	What soil type is this sample (can be a combination)?

a. Which sample made the strongest ball? Why?

b. Which sample made the longest ribbon? Why?

Part Three – Shake it up

Sample name	Layers description

- a. *Are the mud shake layers consistent with the Part One touch test?*

Discuss the following and then choose someone on your group to share with the whole class.

- a. *Where did the soil sample come from?*
- b. *Which sample has the most organic matter?*
- c. *Does there seem to be a connection between the proportions of different-sized particles and where soils originated?*
- d. *How can you test your inferences?*