

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Introduction to Soils

Objectives:

- To use a variety of methods to classify soils
- To understand the differences between soil textural classes

Part I

Take a few minutes to examine the collection of soils brought in by your classmates. Be sure to learn where each sample came from and any interesting characteristics of the soil. Devise a system to group these samples based on similar/different characteristics. On a separate sheet of paper, write which soils you've decided to group together and **justify** your decision. Indicate what additional information, if any, you would like about each soil.

Part II – Soil Texture

Use the flowchart to determine the texture of your soil samples. Write your results in the data table at the end of this document and on the group data sheet in the front of the classroom.

Part III – Soil Color

Use a Munsell Soil Color Chart to determine the color of your soil samples. **DO NOT** place your soil on the color charts! Hold the color chart above your soil sample and try to match colors through the holes in the chart. Record the color of your soil samples in the data table at the end of this document and on the group data sheet in the front of the classroom.

Part IV

Based on the information we now know about each soil sample, how would you group the soils brought in by your classmates? (Refer to the group data sheet for information about each sample.) Is this grouping the same as in Part I? Why or why not? What additional information do you think would be helpful in making the most accurate soil classifications?

Sample ID	Textural Classification	Color