



Soil Ecology Outline

Day One:

Board note – “Soil Lesson”. Show an example of a soil profile and discuss the different horizons. Then, illustrate how to use the ribbon test, touch test, and texture triangle to determine the soil test. This lesson can be done entirely in the classroom, or indoors and outdoors. There is a SNC 1D note version and a SNC 1P note version provided.

Day Two:

Soil activity – Compare the soils from two different locations. See “Soil Texture” worksheet.

Day Three:

Soil activity – Using a Berlese funnel to extract invertebrates from soil samples collected. The worksheet is called “Berlese Funnel for Collecting Soil Invertebrates”.

Day Four:

Other possible soil activities include “Litter Bag” and “Particle Size Analysis”. There are worksheets provided for each activity. In the “Litter Bag” activity, students will be measuring the moisture content of the soil. In the “Particle Size Analysis” activity, students will follow a procedure to separate soil into sand, silt, and clay. In this activity the teacher could have students draw observations for the soil after it has stood overnight, as well as write a description for each layer.