



# LEARN TO “READ” YOUR STATE SOIL!

Use your science detective skills to learn how to “read” your state soil the way a soil scientist does. Each exhibit stop gets you one step closer to being a soil scientist!



**1** Find your state soil in the “All-American Soils” section.

What is the name of your state soil?

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What does your state soil look like? Use your eyes to describe it!

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**2** Visit “Texture Matters” in Sizing Up Soils.

Turn over the tumblers and observe how water flows through the different types of soil particles.

How does the water move through the different tumblers?

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Why do you think this happens?

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**3** Find the soil monolith in “Hidden Horizons.”

Look at the different horizons and read the Top-to-Bottom Guide to Soils.

What types of things would you find in the

O horizon? \_\_\_\_\_

B horizon? \_\_\_\_\_

C horizon? \_\_\_\_\_

What do these horizons tell us about the history and age of soils?

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Visit “Color It Wet and Dry”



Visit your state soil again.

Are soils all the same color? What colors can you find?



If you were studying a soil that looked like this, what does the color tell you about the soil? (Hint: Use the color cards!)

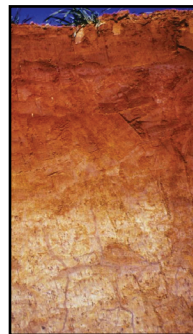



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What does the color tell you about this soil?




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Now that you’ve learned how to study soil properties, go back to your state soil and describe it like a soil scientist!

Describe the colors:

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What do you think the texture is?

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★ Visit the soils map in “The Big Picture” and find the most common soil type in your state!

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Draw the horizons here.



**Congratulations!** You have just studied your state soil like a soil scientist by looking at its texture, color, and horizons.