



WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT SOILS?



Use your science detective skills to uncover four ways soils are important for all living things on Earth, including YOU! Each exhibit stop below holds a clue to solving the mystery!



1 Find the mural in the “Skin of the Earth” section.

Look for different living things in soils.

How are these living things using soils?



Why do you think this is important to know?



2 Do the Soils Emissions Inspection Station interactive.

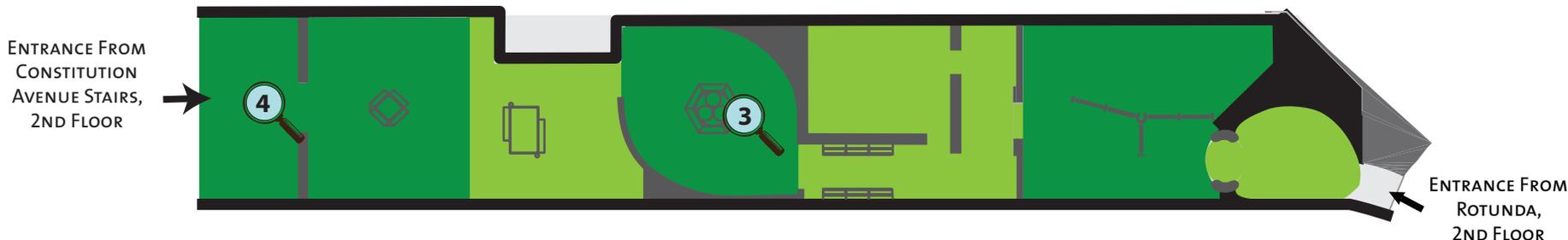
An infrared gas analyzer is used to detect how much carbon dioxide soils are releasing into the air.

Where does the carbon dioxide in soils come from?

How does the carbon dioxide that is released from soils affect our climate?



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Find the water droplets in the “Ins and Outs” sculpture.



Visit the basement in “Our World, Our Soil.”

What happens to water when it reaches the ground?

How do soils affect the water you use every day?

Hints can be found in the blue panels around the sculpture!

How many steps are you away from soils? Try one of the examples in the exhibition.

Now, try two more!



- If you eat a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, how many steps away are you from soils?

- If you play soccer, how many steps away from soils are you?



CONGRATULATIONS!

You’ve just found four important uses of soils! Not only are soils home to a huge diversity of organisms and used to make everyday products, but they filter water and store and release carbon dioxide that influences climate.

How many more uses can you uncover?