

RETURN TO YOUR SIT SPOT: LOOKING CLOSELY

Today you are going to do a survey of everything in a 1-foot square of land in your sit spot.

VISIT YOUR SIT SPOT

1. Start by spending 7 minutes making observations from your sit spot. Do you notice anything small moving around?
2. After 7 minutes, use a nature journal to write or draw what you remember observing.

MEASURE AND MARK YOUR SURVEY AREA

1. First, choose the area that you want to explore.

How can we show respect when we survey our 1-foot square of land?

Choose our square carefully so that we don't hurt plants or animals by stepping on them. Be gentle with any animals we find. This is their home!

Can you think of other ways to show respect?

2. Measure a 1-foot square to observe.
 - If you have a ruler, measure a square that has 12 inches (1 foot) on each side.
 - If you don't have a ruler, use a piece of paper to measure the area. It's not exactly 1-foot square, but it is somewhat close.
3. Draw a line around the square or find a string, or sticks, or pencils to put around the square so you will know exactly which area you are surveying.



SURVEY YOUR SQUARE

1. Look very carefully at everything you can notice in your square. Write or draw everything you can find, especially very small things. You can try to:
 - Draw a picture of your whole square with everything inside it.
 - Make a list of each type of thing in your square. Are there rocks? Soil? Sticks? Dead leaves? Insects? Plants?
 - Count how many of each type of thing there is.
 - If your square has a lot of one type of thing, like grass, estimate how much of your square has it. All? Half? A tiny corner?
 - How many colors do you see inside your square?
 - Is anything moving in your square? Did anything come into your square while you were observing, or did anything leave?
2. If it's ok to dig in your square, see what you can find underground! Add it to your list.
 - Are there different colors or textures of soil?
 - Are there plant roots? Rocks? Worms?
 - Collect samples of the soil you dig up to paint with!

PAINT WITH SOIL

GATHER THESE MATERIALS

- Cup or bowl with water
- Small bowl, empty egg carton, or piece of cardboard
- White or light-colored paper
- Paint brush
- Samples of soil

1. Collect different types of soil from your survey area. If you can't dig there, try other places in your yard or neighborhood. Look for different colors, but it is ok if you can only find 1 or 2 different colors.
2. Put soil in small piles on a piece of cardboard, in the indentations of egg cartons, or in small bowl. Get your cup or bowl of water, too.

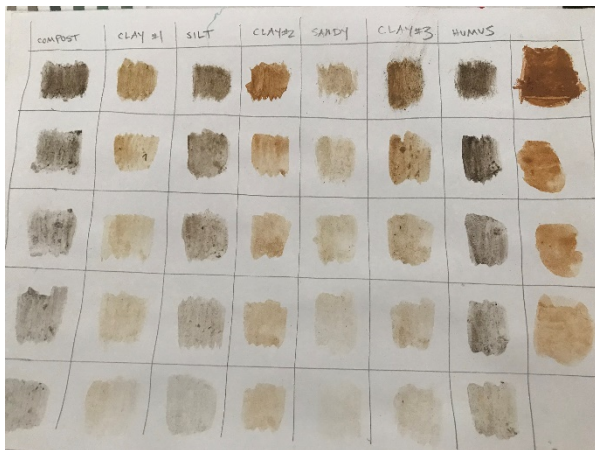
3. Mix the soil and water to make paint. Try to:

- put brush in water then soil
- put water on soil then dip brush
- put soil on paper then dip brush in water and paint
- any other way you can think of!

4. Paint with the soil-paint on paper! You can:

- Paint a sample of each color you collected in a circle or a line
- Paint what you see in your survey area or wherever you collected your soil
- Paint something from your imagination

If you don't have a paint brush, try painting with your fingers or make your own paintbrush out of pine needles, sticks, or something else.



5. Experiment with your paint. Can you change how solid or see-through your soil paint is? What happens when you mix colors? Can you paint on wood, rocks, or something else instead of paper?