

Name _____ Date _____

Harcourt School Publishers: Soil Formation, Composition, and Composting
 Third Grade Earth Science--Soils (S3E1) (<http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/dirt/index.html>)

Activity 1: Soil Composition

Click "Learn More" and read about soil composition.

Then, complete this activity and copy your answers into the chart below.

Layer Name	Amount of Humus	Description

Activity 2: Soil Formation

Click "Learn More" and read about soil composition.

Complete this activity and then circle the column in the chart that best describes the correct order of the layers in soil.

<u>Choice 1</u>	<u>Choice 2</u>	<u>Choice 3</u>
↓ All Rock	↓ <u>About equal amounts</u> of humus, medium-sized grains, and solid rock.	↓ There is a little humus and some medium-sized grains, but solid rock still makes up more than half.
There is a little humus and some medium-sized grains, but solid rock still makes up more than half.	There is a little humus and some medium-sized grains, but solid rock still makes up more than half.	All Rock
<u>About equal amounts</u> of humus, medium-sized grains, and solid rock.	All Rock	<u>About equal amounts</u> of humus, medium-sized grains, and solid rock.

Activity 3: Soil Composting

Click "Learn More" and read about soil composting.

First: Decide where each item belongs and write your answers in the chart below. (See **word bank**.)

Then complete the activity to see if you were correct.

Recycle Bin						
Composting Bin						

Word Bank: soda can, apple core, tea bag, banana peel, leaves, 2-liter bottle, soup can, milk jug, newspaper, egg shells, glass bottle, coffee grounds.