

SEPARATING SOILS

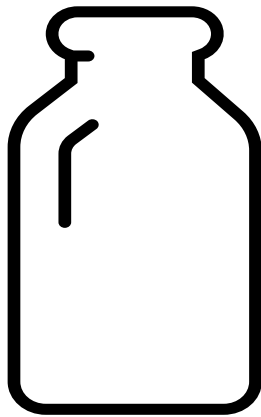
This is also known as the **Jar Test**. It enables us to see the components or different parts that soil is made up of.

You will need:

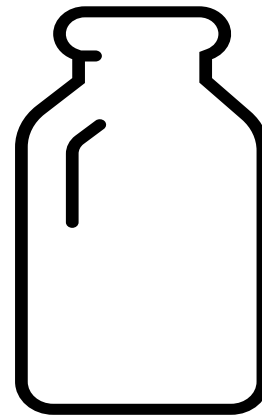
- 1 large jar with lid
- 1 trowel
- Soil
- Water
- Magnifying glass

What to do:

1. Half fill your jar with soil and then top up with water.
2. Draw what the contents of your jar looks like in the “Before Shaking” jar below.



Before Shaking



After Settling

3. Screw the lid on firmly and shake the jar until the soil is fully suspended in the water.
4. **What do you think is going to happen? Predict the outcome.**

5. Now put the jar aside for a day or more to let the contents separate & settle and the water to clear.
6. Go back to the jar of soil and water and observe what has happened.
7. **Has the soil separated and sedimented into layers? Is this what you predicted would happen?**
8. Draw what the soil mixture looks like in the “After Settling” jar above.
9. Can you identify the various components? Sand? Silt? Clay? Organic Matter?

Info Box

- Sand, Silt and Clay are different sized rock particles
 ◇◇◇ = Sand ○○○ = Silt """" = Clay
- Organic Matter is decomposing/rotting plants and animals

10. How much of your soil sample is:

Sand? _____ Silt? _____
 Clay? _____ Organic Matter? _____