Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Discovery Education Video- All About Soil

**What is Soil**

1. What is soil?

(The loose top layer of Earth)

1. What is soil made of?  
     
   (small pieces of rock, decaying animals and plants)
2. Where does soil come from?   
     
   (the breaking down of larger rocks)
3. Soil is moved through a process called?   
     
   (erosion)
4. What do you call decaying plant material? (humus) Why is it an important part of soil?  
     
   (Gives plants nutrients)
5. What are layers of soil? Describe them.   
     
   (top soil where plants grow (humus),

subsoil made of soil and rocks, and   
weathered bedrock medium size rocks

bedrock (large rocks)

**Soil Types and Properties**

1. What are the two important properties of soil?

(water and air)

1. What are the three types of soil? Describe them.   
     
   sand- large particles, lots of air, doesn’t hold water, washes foot prints of away quickly

Silt- medium sized particles, holds on to some water and has some air, doesn’t drain all water, foot prints stay behind better  
clay- smallest particles, smooth and sticky when wet, hard when dry, holds the most water but little room for air, used to make pottery

1. What kind of soil is best for most plants to grow in?  
     
   (loam- a mixture of sand, silt and humus (decaying plants and animals)

**Soil and Plants**

1. Why is soil important to plants?  
     
   (keep roots in place, give nutrients and water to help them grow)
2. What are some things farmers are doing to help the soil?  
     
   (till, rotate crops, let plants decay to add nutrients, raise worms to help soil)
3. Where do plants grow? What layer of soil?  
     
   (top soil)

**Soil and Worms**

1. How are earthworms good for soil?   
     
   (returns nutrients to the soil, burrow holes to allow water and air to get in there and mix up the soil)

**Uses for Soil**

1. What can soil be used for?   
     
   (animal homes, food for animals, people make homes, pottery, face paint, medicine)