



What's under our feet? Soil sampling

Kia ora soil explorer! Let's investigate our own kāinga (home) by taking a **soil sample**. What lives in the whenua? What is it made up of?

He noke koe?

Are you a worm?

This is a saying to express someone appearing as if from nowhere – as if you had burrowed through the ground like a worm

For this task you will need:

- A spade
- A small patch of ground – check with an adult where it is ok to dig! A good spot might be a bare place in the garden, or a small patch on the edge of the lawn
- Something to lay your dirt on
- Pencil/pen and paper to record what you find



Spreading and sorting the soil



Rubbish!



Slugs/putoko - one white, one black



Lots of roots/aka



Wiggly worms – noke!



Stones/Kōhatu





Task:



1. Make a guess – what do you think you will find?



2. DIG! Dig out about enough soil to fill an ice-cream container. Aim for as deep as your hand.



3. Spread the soil out – I put mine on a piece of cardboard, but you could spread it on the grass, or on a piece of plastic.



4. Sort your soil! What is there? Break apart lumps of dirt explore what you have. Remember to be careful with worms or other creatures – they don't like being dry in the sun, so cover them up again with some soil.



5. Record on a tally chart (see picture)



6. Take a photo for your record!



7. Return the soil to the hole, making sure worms are covered. Remember to wash your hands!

Worms	Slugs	Stones	Rubbish	Roots
				lots!!
3	2	6	1	lots!

Kupu Kupu Kupu!

Do you know these Māori words?

noke – worm

kōhatu – rock/stone

aka – roots or vine

one/oneone – sand, mud, earth, soil

noke parāoa – spaghetti (wheat worms!)

Did you know that Māori have over 30 classifications and words for NZ soil?

