

## Project Assessment

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

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

### Activity: Soil Preparation

Show students samples of potting soil and garden soil (from your garden). Have students examine the two samples and discuss their observations.

Students should recognize that the garden soil contains lots of mineral particles — tiny pieces of rock — in addition to bits of organic matter, whereas the potting soil is almost entirely organic matter. Explain that the potting soil has been manufactured for growing plants in containers.

It's a mixture, made up mostly of decayed plants, that has been heated (sterilized) to kill any micro-organisms, along with some air and water. The garden soil is full of micro-organisms and consists mostly of mineral particles mixed with organic matter, air, and water.

Ask students what they think are the benefits of garden soil vs. potting soil.

What are the drawbacks?

How do they think the garden soil may be better for productivity?

Write down their answers in their journals.