



New Curriculum Promoting **HEALTHY SOIL!**

Kindergarten-5th grade educational curriculum is now available at www.soileducationnetwork.org.

- Interactive, easy, fun soil health experiments!
- How do worms help the soil?
- What shapes the land?
- Soil your Undies challenge!
- Download curriculum and companion PowerPoint primers **FREE** at www.soileducationnetwork.org
- Request your printed materials from USDA-NRCS.
- Meet local soil specialists at local USDA Service Centers or Conservation Districts.



Soil Your Undies CHALLENGE

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SD Discovery Center Contact:
(605) 224-8294
www.sd-discovery.org



New Educational Primers Promoting 5 PRINCIPLES OF SOIL HEALTH

PROTECT THE SOIL



Disturb the soil as little as possible



Keep the soil covered at all times

FEED THE SOIL



Increase Diversity



Keep a living root in the soil as long as possible



Incorporate Livestock

Available at: www.soileducationnetwork.org

Learn the essentials of soil and soil health through these 11 modules. Covering everything from how soil is made to the soil health principles, the Primer establishes a baseline of essential knowledge and understanding for producers, educators, and curious community members. The module sections take about 15-20 minutes to complete and each has a check for understanding the quiz at the end (ungraded). Brush up on your knowledge or learn something new!

MODULE 1: INTRODUCING SOIL - Understand what soil is and where it comes from, how water and air move through soil, and soil functions that underscore the need to care for this precious resource and promote soil health.

Section A: Soil Basics - What soil is made of, how it is formed, what influences formation, how soil is classified by mineral particles and profile layers.

Section B: Soil, Air, and Water - The relationship of soil physical properties to soil air and water, soil's role in filtering water and holding carbon.

Section C: Soil Functions - Soil function and the contributions soil makes to each function.

MODULE 2: SOIL ORGANISMS - Learn about soil organisms that we are trying to protect through practices that promote soil health.

Section A: Transforming Soil Organic Matter - Soil organic matter and the decomposition process.

Section B: Soil Food Web - Relationship of plants and soil organisms.

Section C: Soil Organisms - Function and features for soil micro- and macro-organisms.

Section D: Impact of Soil Organisms on Soil Health - Soil organisms' contribution to soil health.

MODULE 3: IMPROVING SOIL HEALTH - How to evaluate soil and describe common soil problems.

Section A: Soil Health and Soil Quality Indicators - Key terms used to qualify and evaluate soil.

Section B: Common: Soil Problems - Soil problems and causes.

MODULE 4: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES - Explore the principles and practices that improve the health of soil for anyone.

Section A: Soil Health Principles - Soil health and management practices.

Section B: Grassland Management - Grassland management practices for soil health.