

Name: _____ Date: _____

Alaskan Soils

Alaska FFA Association and USDA Northwest Climate Hub

Grade Levels 6-12



Activity 1: Guide to Texture by Feel

1. Where did you find your local soil sample? What kind of plants were growing in the soil?
2. Complete the Guide to Texture by Feel for your local soil sample. What soil type is your soil?
3. Complete the Guide to Texture by Feel for your provided soil samples. What soil types are those soils?
4. What types of plants grow well in your local soil type?

Activity 2: Soil Testing

1. Measure and record the pH, nitrate, phosphate, and potassium content of your soils:

Soil Sample 1:

pH	
Nitrate	
Phosphate	
Potassium	

Soil Sample 2:

pH	
Nitrate	
Phosphate	
Potassium	

Soil Sample 3:

pH	
Nitrate	
Phosphate	
Potassium	

Soil Sample 4:

pH	
Nitrate	
Phosphate	
Potassium	

Results Questions

1. Did all the soil samples have the same results for each test? If not, why?
2. For your local soil sample: Ask the people responsible for caring for the land if they are adding anything to the soil. How could what they were adding affect the soil?
3. If your soil test kit has a list of plants that grow best in various soil types, compare this to the types of plants you found growing in your soil. Are these plants likely to do well in this soil? If not, how can you change the soil so that the plants would do well? What would you need to add to it?
4. How might some of the crops that grow well on your land change if soil conditions change due to climate impacts like wildfire, extreme precipitation events, and erosion?