

Activity Sheet 1: Living/non-living discussion cards



Images can be downloaded from the [website](#).



Activity Sheet 1: continued





Soil Challenge Card 1

You have 3 samples of soil; A, B, C. As space scientists you are to decide which one you think is most like Mars soil.

Helpful Hints

Salt dissolves in water. Sand does not

Fabulous Facts

Soil from Mars is mostly dust that falls out of the air from big dust storms.

Soil Challenge Card 2

You should feel and observe each sample.

Helpful Hints

You can use special paper called indicator paper to show whether a liquid is acid or not.

Fabulous Facts

Mars soil is made from very fine dust like toolc, bits of sand, tiny rocks and larger lumps from meteorites. Some sample of Mars soil are acid but most are not.

Soil Challenge Card 3

You should carry out some investigations and use the Mars facts to help you.

Helpful Hints

Filtering can be used to separate materials that do not dissolve in water.

Fabulous Facts

Mars soil is so rusty. It looks reddish/brown. Under the surface are tiny bits of rock that let water pass quickly through them.

Soil Challenge Card 4

You need to collect evidence, decide how to record it and present your findings.

Helpful Hints

Evaporation can be used to get back materials that have dissolved in water.

Fabulous Hints

Almost every Mars lander or rover has found some salt or crystal salts in the soil.

Activity Sheet 3: Space scientists Martian soil studies



✓ Yes or X No	A	B	C
Red-brown colour			
Feels like talc or flour			
Range of particle sizes			
Contains salt			
Lets water pass through quickly			
Acidic			

We think sample _____ is most like Martian soil because
