

Under the Ground

Hands on Investigation with Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District

- Here in the Hamilton County SWCD Education Department we offer a variety of free educational programs. A few of our programs include Wiggly Worms, Bob & Otto, Fossils 101, Edible Soil and Cookie Mining.

Wiggly Worms: Students will discover the world of worms with the story "Tunneling Earthworms"; they will learn what worms eat, how they survive, and what environment they live in. A worm bin will be brought into the classroom so participants can have a hands-on experience with the worms and investigate why the underground world is so important to us.

Bob & Otto: Through the friendship between Bob the caterpillar and Otto the worm, children will observe the very distinct roles of each organism in the world around them. Children will see that all living beings play a special part in their ecosystem and realize they are all interdependent. Afterwards each child gets to decorate their own cocoon and is given a butterfly to take home.

Fossils 101: We'll talk about fossils and what makes our area so unique, including the geology and the types of fossils found here. We will discuss extinction and ancient organism's connections to things living today! Students will learn about Ohio's geologic background and make their own Plaster-of-Paris fossil.

Edible Soil: In this learning activity, participants will get an introduction into the composition, layers and life forms in our soil. They will then get to use pudding, sprinkles, cookies and chocolate chips to learn about what soil is made from and how important it is to our everyday life.

Cookie Mining: Students use a cookie and "mine" chocolate chips to represent natural resources, making and losing money based on the amount of resources recovered and the amount of land destroyed. The students will learn the value of natural resources and explore the concept of renewable resources.

- To schedule a free program visit <http://www.hcswcd.org/classroom-programs.html> or call 513-772-7645 and ask for Sara or Gwen.

Create a List or Venn Diagram

- Prior to reading the book ask students to come up with a list of everything that can be found underground. Have them include both living and non-living things.
- After reading the book, create another list of things that can be found underground. Once you are done compare the two different list. What types of things did your students fail to identify. Are there more natural or man-made items underground?

Dirt: Secrets of the Soil

- The additional attached file contains a total of 14 lessons that focus on the soil. Lessons include topics such as food webs, erosion, healthy soil and soil composition and texture.

