

PIEFA 2016 Conference
Food and Fibre Matters
Workshop 7a Snooping into Soils Tues May 3 11 am Ballroom 1



Snooping into Soils

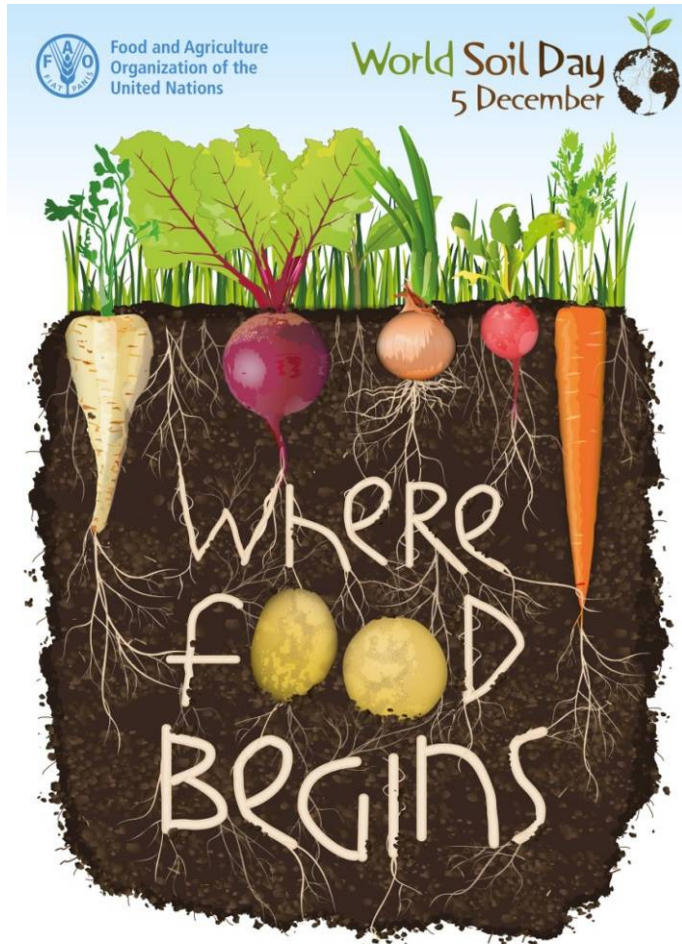


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Environmental education for everyone- about soils



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Why soils?

**Most food and fibre begins in soil.
Most food and fibre depends on soil.**

**If food and fibre matters – soil matters.
If learning is about food and fibre matters –
then one of these matters is soil.**

**2015 = International Year of Soils
Healthy soils for a healthy life
Healthy soils – healthy food and fibre-healthy life.**

**2016 = International Year of Pulses
Nutritious seeds for a sustainable future.
Nutritious seeds – healthy food and fibre- sustainable soils**



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“Where food begins” FAO, WSD 2014

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Soils fit the AC Curriculum

eg 2016 IY Soils Wimmera Soil Education Primary Schools Program
for rural schools with composite classes and a focus on science.

Learning about soils can fit into each level F-y6 of AC Science:

Understanding – as a human endeavour- farmers' use of soil
biology – soils is a need for living things
chemistry – soils make-up, reversible/changes?
earth science – soil = a food/fibre resource
physics – gravity has its effects in soil

Skills - questioning, conducting, recording, analysing,
communicating

Other domains that may be covered depending on the activities are :
Geography, Arts, IT, Numeracy, Communications
Literacy – speaking, listening, reading , writing



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Snooping into Soils -basic record sheet

Snooping into Soils
 activities were focussed on
 National Science Week
 with samples from
 children's backyards and
 simple experiments.

eg Circle results.

✓ X suitability for intended use

Numerical result for older levels

• Colour match?

black brown grey
 orange red white yellow

• Close-up?





- ... Grains one colour / more than one
- ≈ Clods
- ↑↑ Bits of living things (plants/animals)
- ≈ Living things (eg worms)

• pH colours?

Yellow Green Purple

• Soil Shake!

Thanks to gravity we can see the :

	Air
	Organic matter lying on the top
	Clay as murky water
	Silt as a dark layer on top of
	Sand with the biggest grains.

• Water love?

- ◆ Droplets soak in soil
- ◆ Droplets sit on top of soil
- ◆ Droplets slip off soil
- ◆ Soil grains ride on top of droplet!



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“Soil Selfies” web resource: Sharing soils from around the nation/world - What about adding yours?



Each “Soil Selfies” has 3 photos of soil at the contributor’s place and notes on it:

- 1 close-up – shows colour and texture,
- 2 in use – as well as many types of food uses in the collection, there are recreation, health, infrastructure, Nature, industrial and environmental services uses.
- 3 issues – challenges and how they are managed, so that soils are as healthy as possible into the future to grow food and fibre and maintain our other uses.

Soil Selfies come from Australia, Europe, Pacific and Africa.

My aim is to continue to grow this resource, as contributions received

What’s in it for schools as contributors? English, Photographic Arts, and IT.



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Snooping into Soils -workshop activities

From **Soil Selfies** collection at <http://soils.enviroed4all.com.au/soil-selfies/locations/>

1 Soil Selfies display close-up - colour, texture,
uses,
challenges- issues and managements

On-line eggs of 'food and fibre matters'- Wimmera/Mallee grains farms, urban backyard gardens (family farms);
permaculture from Apollo Bay, Mt Waverley and Kenya, Dimboola (xericulture) and Savoie (alpino permaculture)

From **Snooping into Soils National Science Week** activities at <http://soils.enviroed4all.com.au/soils-in-stories/> spread
through this section: PEIFA conference, Wimmera Soil Education project, National Science Week, and *Otherways* sections.

2 Odd One Out thinking –oral Sc communication skills, right v best answer
3 Looking into soils observation, modelling
4 Magnify soil observe soil under a magnifier as 'rain' drops
5 Soil Shakes observe gravity's effect, layers, changes/reversibility simulates?



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Snooping into Soils -continuing to share

Would you like to contribute your/ school soil to the Soil Selfies resource?
Then please send me an email enviroed4all@gmail.com
(and make this email an allowed sender)

I send out an (irregular) e-news about updates to the Soil Selfies collection.
If you are interested, ditto to the above contact.
Or connect with enviroed4all on Twitter, Linked-in or Facebook webpage.

Thanks for your participation today.
Please leave your response sheet



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