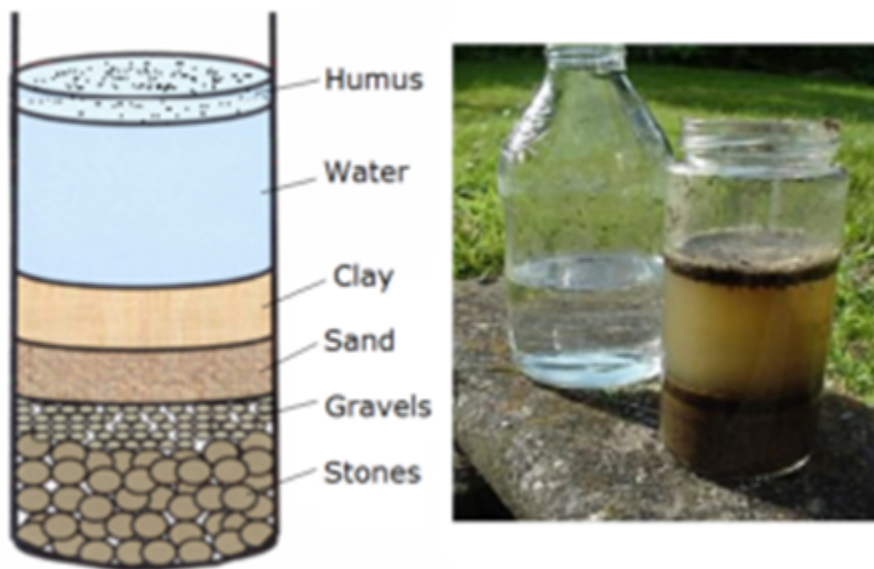


We can perform this simple activity to show that the soil is composed of distinct layers.

Procedure: Take a little soil and break the clumps to powder it (don't use a crusher, do it by hand). add a handful of this powdered soil in a transparent glass tumbler. Stir the suspension with a stick so that the soil gets dissolved. Let the suspension stand undisturbed for some time.



Observations: We see layers of particles of different sizes in the glass tumbler. There is a topmost layer of some dead rotting leaves or animal remains floating on water. This rotting dead matter in the soil is called humus. Below the layer of humus, there is a clear water level which contains dissolved part from the soil. Below the water layer, there are layers of clay, sand, gravel and stones.