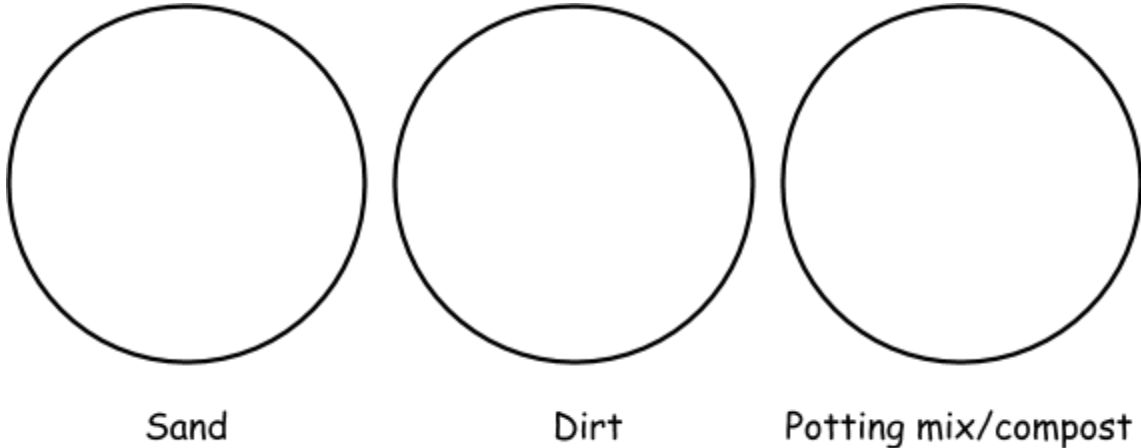


Handout

1. Draw a picture of each type of soil and add some labels (e.g. rock, root, perlite).



2. Based on your observation of the soils, which one do you think will grow the seeds best?

The potting mix has lots of organic matter, so it might grow the seeds best.

3. Record your observations of the seedlings (e.g. germination, leaves, height, colour).

Day	Sand	Dirt	Potting mix/compost
1	No germination	One seed has started to germinate	No germination
2	No germination	Three seeds have germinated	No germination

Day	Sand	Dirt	Potting mix/compost
3	One seed has germinated, sand gets dry faster	Most seeds have germinated, dirt is staying damp	No germination
4	Shoots are smaller	Seedlings have two leaves	Seeds have started to germinate
5	Leaves are not as dark, seedlings are leaning towards the light	Seedlings are leaning towards the light	Most seeds have germinated
6	Seedlings have two leaves	Seedlings are larger than other treatments	Seedlings have two leaves

4. What conclusions can you draw from your observations? Do you have any new questions based on these observations?

The dirt germinated the seeds the best. If the potting mix has more organic matter and nutrients, why didn't the seeds germinate as fast as in the dirt? Do the bacteria and fungi in the soil have an effect on germination and nutrient uptake?