

# SOILS DETECTIVE SCAVENGER HUNT

Take this sheet with you on a hike or in your own backyard for a fun adventure as a Soils Detective!

1. Where are the leaves?

\_\_\_\_\_ On the trees

\_\_\_\_\_ On the ground

\_\_\_\_\_ Already raked up

2. Do you see any moss on the ground? (*looks like a green, squishy carpet*) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Can you find any mushrooms? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Make a list of all the creatures you see in the soil.

---

---

---

5. Pick up a little bit of soil. What does it feel like?

\_\_\_\_\_ Sandy, like the beach

\_\_\_\_\_ Sticky, like Play-Doh

\_\_\_\_\_ Smooth, like flour



**DELAWARE STATE**  
**PARKS**  
YOUR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

# GOOD JOB, DETECTIVES!

Now that you have finished your investigation, what have you discovered?

1. If you chose “on the trees”, then it must not be fall or winter yet! Or, those trees could be evergreens, whose leaves are usually needle-like, and stay on all year. If you chose “on the ground”, great! They can decompose and add organic matter to the soil! If you chose “already raked up”, that’s okay, there is still more we can do!
2. If you said there is moss on the ground, that means the soil is very wet around where you are! Mosses need a very wet soil, so if you said you saw none, the soil has done a good job draining!
3. Just like with the mosses, mushrooms also need a lot of water to grow! If you saw some mushrooms, the soil is very wet, and if not, it has been properly drained.
4. I hope you saw a lot of creatures crawling around! There could be worms, ants, beetles, anything!
5. If it felt sandy that means the mixture of soil has more sand particles, if it was sticky that means there is more clay in the mixture. If it was smooth there is more silt.



**DELAWARE STATE**  
**PARKS**  
YOUR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE STARTS HERE