Dirt, Sand, and Water Lessons

Books

Beneath Your Feet
By Seymour Simon. (1978, Walker and Company)
A simple, well written and illustrated book that explores the different layers of soil and the creatures who inhabit them.

Compost Critters
By Bianca Lavies. (1993, Dutton Children's Books)
This book has great pictures of the various creatures that live in compost piles and help turn organic matter into usable soil components.

Down Comes the Rain (Lets-Read-and-Find-Out Science)
By Franklyn Mansfield Bramley; illustrated by James Graham Hale. (1997, Harper Trophy)
An excellent introduction to weather and the water cycle. Simple prose and illustrations. Many hands-on activities, such as seeing water evaporate.

A Drop of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder
By Walter Wick. (1997, Scholastic Trade)
An exceptionally beautiful book of stunning photographs of water in various forms. Children will enjoy having this book shown to them by a teacher, and will want to look at it themselves many times. A good resource for additional information and activities about water for the study.

Follow the Water from Brook to Ocean
By Arthur Dorros. (1993, Harper Trophy)
Tells how water shapes the earth, how it flows from brook to stream, river to ocean, and why it is important to keep it clean. The writer is a well-known writer of science books for children.

A Handful of Dirt
By Raymond Bial. (2000, Walker and Company)
A good analysis of soil components, with interesting pictures.

Mud
By Mary Lyn Ray; illustrated by Lauren Stringer. (1996, Harcourt)
A good book for getting a close look at mud. In poetic text, it describes how mud forms in the spring and is transformed by winter frost.

Sand (Windows on Literacy)
By Monica Halpern. (2002, National Geographic Society)
This short book, with excellent photographs and simple text, takes a close look at what sand is made of and how it moves from place to place.

Sand
By Ellen J. Prager; illustrated by Nancy Woodman. (2000, National Geographic Society)
In an attractive and engaging format (under the guidance of the "sandpiper sleuth"), this book describes the formation of sand from various natural materials and shows how it can be moved through water, wind, ice, and other erosion agents. Incorporates numerous magnified photographs of sand samples, which are very interesting to look at.

What Is the World Made Of? All About Solids, Liquids and Gases (Lets-Read and-Find Out Science)
By Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld; illustrated by Paul Meisel. (1998, Harper)
Children are invited to make personal observations of water as it changes from one state to another. The book introduces the youngest readers to an important scientific concept—the difference between solids, liquids and gases.