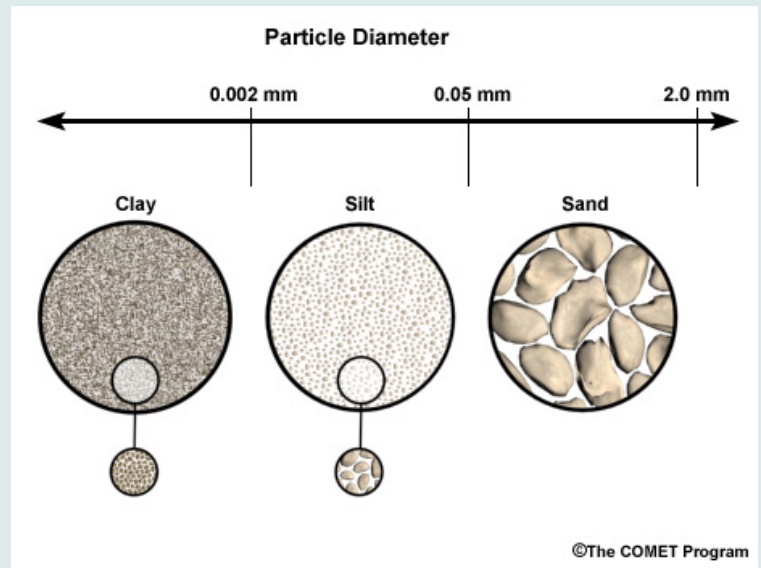
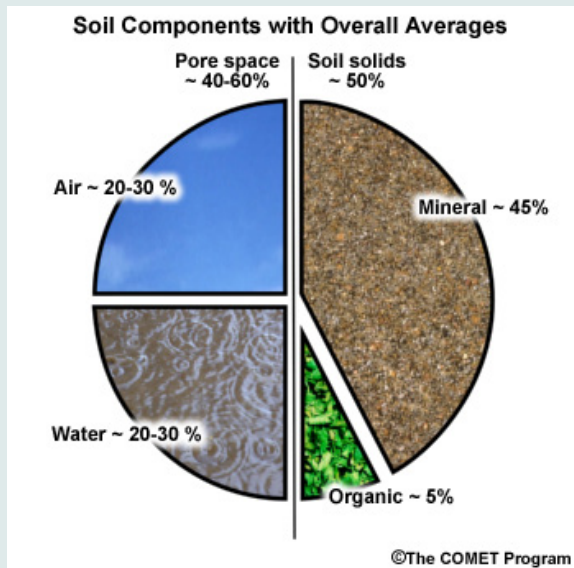


What is Soil?



The **ideal soil** is one half solid (minerals and organic matter), one quarter gas (air), and one quarter liquid (water). Air and water are present in the spaces (pores) between the solid portions of the soil.

The **soil particles** are of three kinds depending on their size. Sand particles are large, silt particles are medium-size, and clay particles are very small that cannot be seen with the unaided eye. Soils have different proportions of these particles.

Make Your Own Model of an Ideal Soil



Materials

- Clear jar (~1000 ml)
- Golf balls (sand) (2)
- Marbles (silt) (20-30)
- Beads (clay) (40-50)
- Plastic animals
- Yarn (roots) (5 pieces)
- Water (½ cup)
- Glitter (microorganisms) (½ teaspoon)

Follow the steps

Fill the jar with the particles in relatively similar proportions as in the Ideal Soil. Observe the spaces taken by the air bubbles, water, organisms, and minerals (particles of sand, silt, and clay).