

# It's All Dirt to Me!

## Teacher Notes

- Give each student a copy of the passage with the assessment items attached.
- Call on volunteers to read the words in the box. Don't define yet.
- Guide the students in reading the passage. (They can read it silently first and then orally or just orally.)
- Discuss the passage as desired, having students define the words in bold print in their own words, using context clues or prior knowledge.
- Complete the multiple-choice items.
- Use the vocabulary cards to play vocabulary games:
  - Around the Class
    - Seat the group in a circle.
    - Choose one student to be first. The first student and the person to his/her left stand up.
    - Read a definition from the list below.
    - The first of the two students to say the correct word moves to the next person in the circle. The other student sits in the empty space.
    - Continue this process until a student makes it "around the class" and returns to his/her original starting place.
    - Definitions
      - Coarse: soil with a thick grained texture
      - Dense: closely packed together
      - Deposition: the dropping of sediments in a new location
      - Erosion: the movement of sediments
      - Fine: made up of tiny particles
      - Horizon: layer of soil in a soil profile
      - Humus: Organic material found in soil
      - Loam: fertile soil consisting of equal parts of clay, sand, and silt
      - Nutrients: substances that provide nourishment for plants and animals
      - Organic: relating to living or once-living things
      - Pebbles: small pieces of rock found in soil
      - Soil: synonym for dirt
      - Soil profile: layers of soil in a particular area

- Texture: the feel of a type of soil
- Weathering: the breaking up of rocks
- Word Study Map
  - Duplicate a Word Study Map for each student. To save paper, duplicate it front-to-back.
  - Give each student a Word Study Map. Have the students work in pairs.
  - Give each student the following five words: deposition, erosion, weathering, pebbles, and soil.
  - The students work together to write the word in the first box, the definition in the second box, a synonym or an example of the word in the third box, and a sentence with the word in the fourth box. (Both students fill out their own sheets to save and study for vocabulary quizzes.)

# Answer Keys

## Answer Key—Assessment Items

1. A
2. B
3. B
4. D
5. C
6. B
7. D
8. A
9. weather, -ing
10. combine, -ations
11. rich, -est
12. erode, -sion
13. deposit, -ion
14. drain, -age
15. organ, -ic
16. sediment, -s