



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Tiny soil detectives

R E P O R T



International Union of Soil Sciences



In collaboration with
the European Union





Hello detective!

You have decided to explore the hidden world beneath your feet.

Soil isn't just dirt — it cools our streets, absorbs rain, grows food, and hides tiny animals in cracks!

Your mission

Try at least 3 soil experiments (you can do more if you like!), collect evidence and share your discoveries.

Ready? Let's investigate!

Please fill out the fields

Name(s) / team name

Age(s)

Country/city

Email



Before you submit your report

- **Include at least 3 experiments.**
- **Add photos, sketches or notes.**
- **Keep each experiment to a maximum of four pages.**
- **Save your report as PDF or Word file.**



Important!

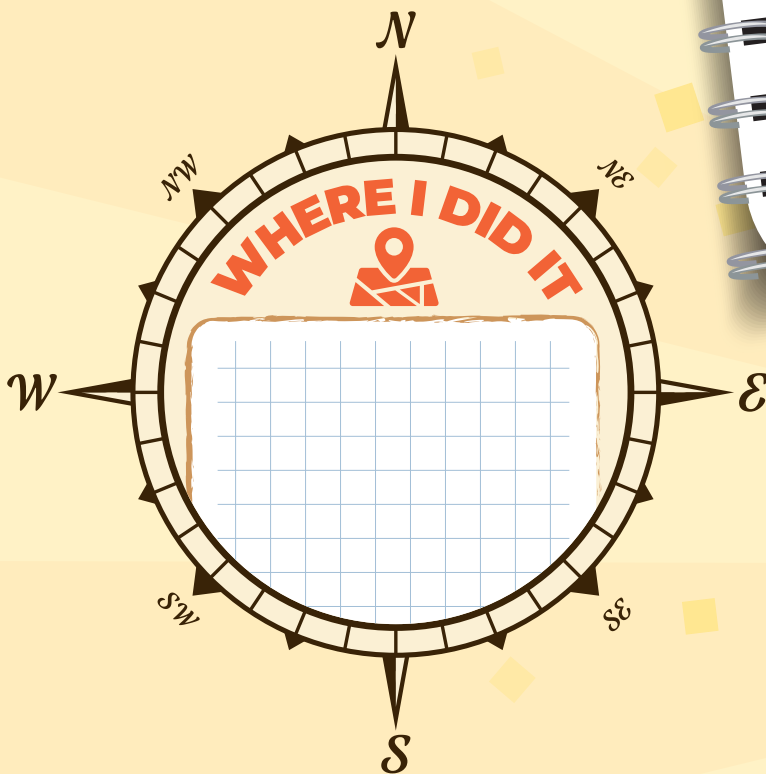
1. **Fill in the ONLINE FORM first.**
(all submissions must be registered this way.)
2. **In the ONLINE FORM's annex section, include a link to download your report (use Google Drive, Dropbox, WeTransfer, or any other free file-sharing service.)**



HEAT SPY MISSION

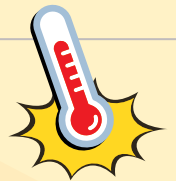
HEAT SPY MISSION

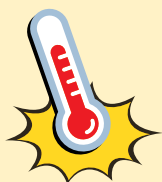
- **Where:** pavements, playgrounds and tree pits (where trees are planted in the pavement).
- **How:** compare surface warmth by touch, dropping water and seeing how long it takes to evaporate or using a thermometer.
- **Detective clue:** Asphalt heats up fastest, while grass and soil stay cooler.
- **City link:** shows how green spaces help cool urban areas.
- **Evidence (required):** share photos of your neighbourhood's "hot spots" and "cool spots".
- **Optional:** create a simple neighbourhood heat map.

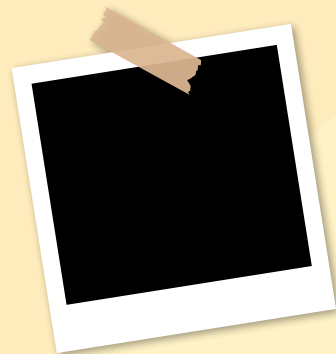




Lined writing area with horizontal lines and scattered yellow diamond-shaped markers.





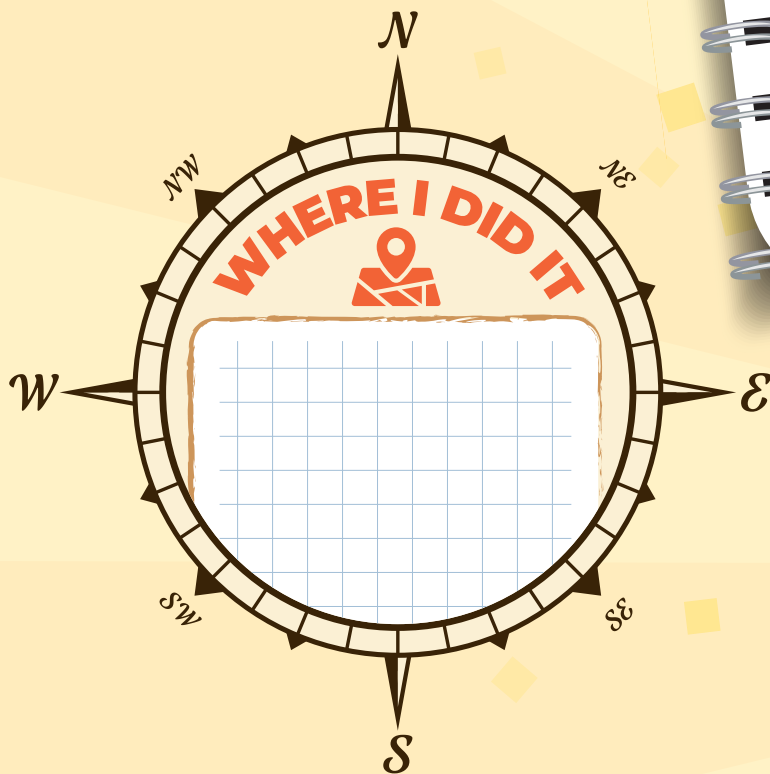


BIODIVERSITY IN THE PAVEMENT CRACKS



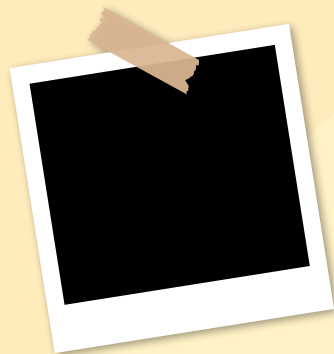
BIODIVERSITY IN THE PAVEMENT CRACKS

- **Where:** pavement cracks and at the base of walls.
- **How:** search for plants, insects or other tiny life in urban soils.
- **Detective clue:** Even the smallest bit of soil supports life.
- **City link:** shows that soil and biodiversity can thrive in unexpected places, even in pavement cracks.
- **Evidence (required):** share photos of what you find in the cracks.
- **Optional:** make a sketch of the "tiny jungle in the crack".







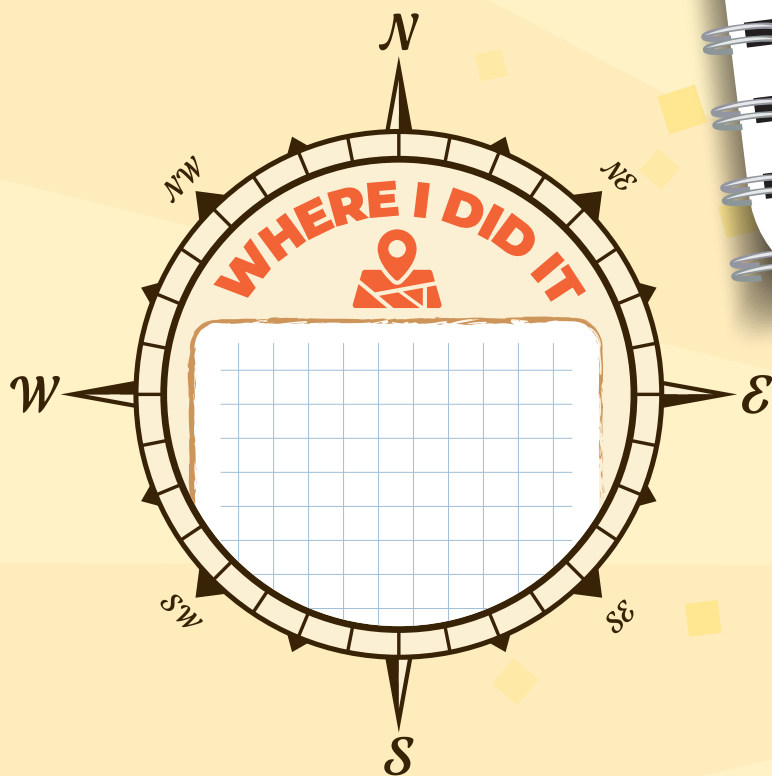


RAINWATER EXPERIMENT



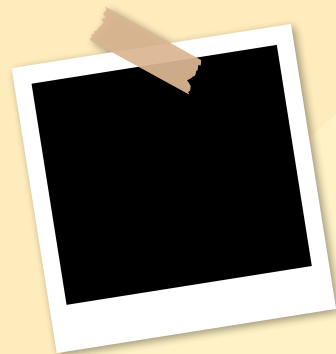
RAINWATER EXPERIMENT

- **Where:** streets, gutters and park paths after rain.
- **How:** pour water on bare soil, grass, and concrete and see what happens.
- **Detective clue:** Soil and grass absorb water, while concrete directs it away.
- **City link:** explains why floods are quicker to happen in paved areas.
- **Evidence (required):** share photos of your experiment.







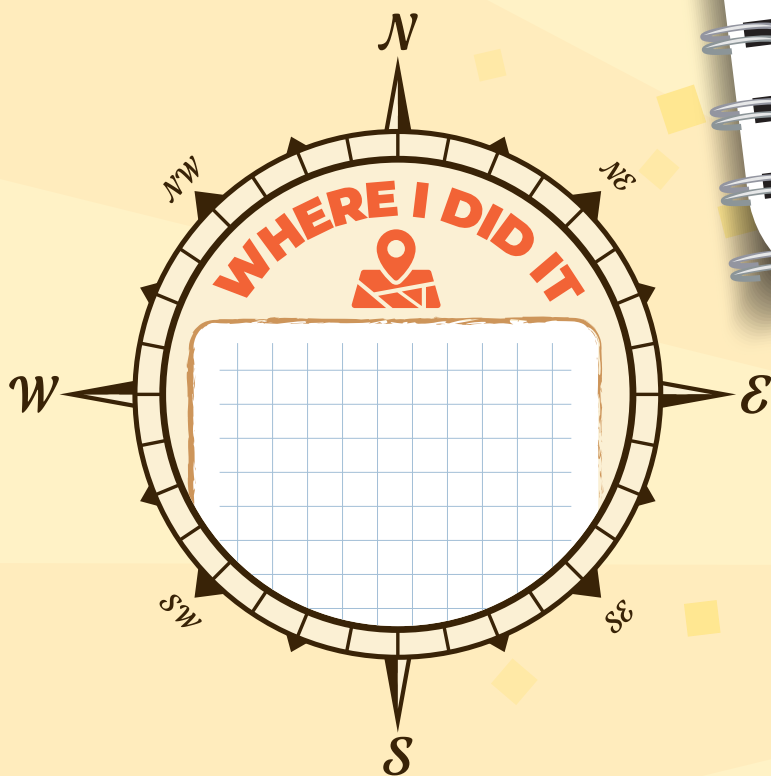


SOIL-TO-TABLE WALK



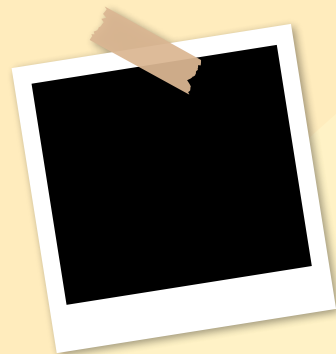
SOIL-TO-TABLE WALK

- **Where:** farmers' market, community garden or urban vegetable patch.
- **How:** ask growers/gardeners about the origin of the soil or take a small sample.
- **Detective clue:** Cities rely on healthy soils nearby for food production.
- **City link:** urban agriculture supports food security.
- **Evidence (required):** share photos of your visit or samples.
- **Optional:** draw the "journey of an apple" from soil to city.







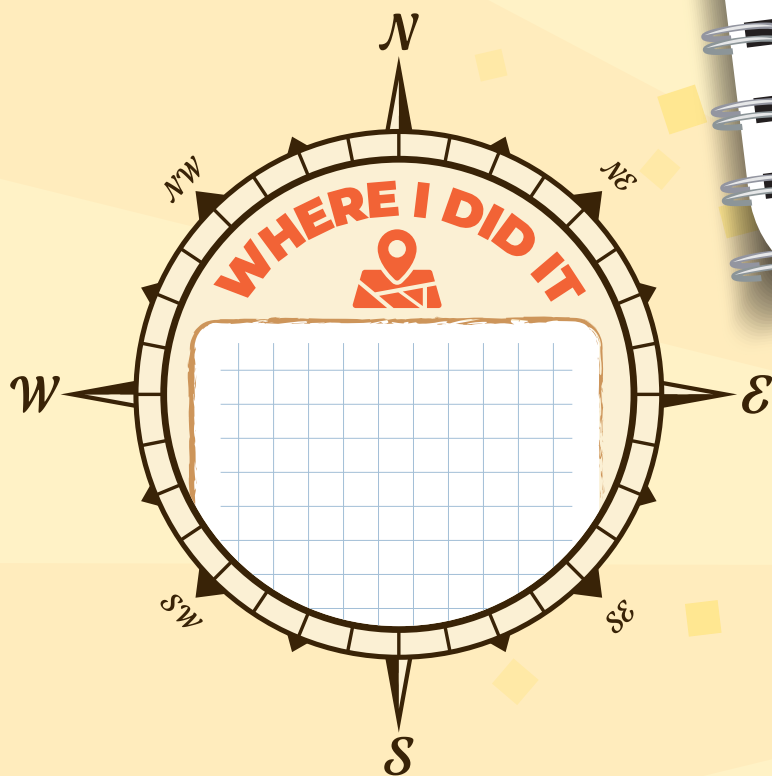


COMPOST CHALLENGE



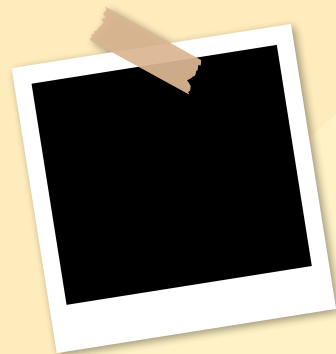
COMPOST CHALLENGE

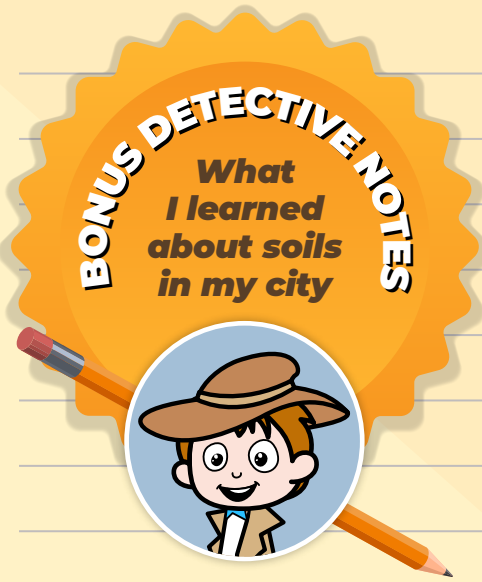
- **Where:** at home or school.
- **How:** collect fruit and vegetable scraps, make a mini compost in a bottle and watch the soil transform.
- **Detective clue:** Organic waste can become fertile soil.
- **City link:** demonstrates recycling and urban soil regeneration.
- **Evidence (required):** share photos documenting the different compost stages.











Lined writing area for notes.





The Global Soil Partnership (GSP) is a globally recognized mechanism established in 2012. Our mission is to position soils in the Global Agenda through collective action. Our key objectives are to promote Sustainable Soil Management (SSM) and improve soil governance to guarantee healthy and productive soils, and support the provision of essential ecosystem services towards food security and improved nutrition, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable development.

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