

SAY IT WITH SOIL

Objective: Students will demonstrate, through writing, how soil interconnects with all living things.

Illinois State Goals: 3.C.

Top Book Hits:

Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin; **ISBN-13:** 978-0060001506

A Handful of Dirt by Raymond Bial; **ISBN-13:** 978-0802786982

Soil! Get the Inside Scoop by David L. Lindbo and others; **ISBN-13:** 978-0891188483

Materials Needed:

- List of quotes on the following pages



Procedure:

- Using provided quotes on the following pages and also found in Soil mAGic kit Social Studies Lesson 2 - Soil Quotes Handout - Say It With Soil.
- Cut quotes into strips and distribute to students or display quotes on an overhead projector, allowing students to choose one.
- Students will read the soil quote and write a paragraph about the quote. Some/all of the following questions should be addressed:
 - What does the quote mean to me?
 - What did this quote mean to the author?
 - Under what circumstances did the author write this quote?
 - Has this quote withstood the passage of time? Why?
 - Is this quote appropriate in today's world? Why?
- Students should be allowed to share their writing with their class. Students may need to be guided to realize that learning about soil is important.

Dig Deeper: Soil mAGic Kit available through local agricultural literacy coordinator. Illinois Soil Ag Mag www.agintheclassroom.org or through local agricultural literacy coordinator. Surviving the Dust Bowl DVD by American Experience available through local agricultural literacy coordinator. Natural Resources Conservation Service <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/education>

Soil Quotes Handout - Say It With Soil

- Soil, like faith, is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. It is the starting point for all living things that inhabit the earth.-Firman E. Bear; 1986
- I know of no pursuit in which more real and important services can be rendered to any country than by improving its agriculture.-George Washington July 20, 1794
- The soil is the source of life, creativity, culture and real independence.-David Ben Gurion, Hazon VeDerek; 1950's
- There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace.-Aldo Leopold; 1949
- A conservationist is one who is humbly aware that with each stroke he is writing his signature on the face of the land.-Aldo Leopold; 1949
- When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers therefore are the founders of human civilization.-Daniel Webster; 1840
- If in the human economy, a squash in the field is worth more than a bushel of soil, that does not mean that food is more valuable than soil; it means simply that we do not know how to value the soil. In its complexity and its potential longevity, the soil exceeds our comprehension; we do not know how to place a just market value on it, and we will never learn how. Its value is inestimable; we must value it, beyond whatever price we put on it, by respecting it.-Wendell Berry; 1995
- We know more about the movement of celestial bodies than about the soil underfoot.-Leonardo daVinci; 1500's
- Essentially, all life depends upon the soil...There can be no life without soil and no soil without life: they have evolved together.-Charles E. Kellogg; 1938
- ...the Latin name for man, homo, derived from humus, the stuff of life in the soil.-Dr. Daniel Hillel; late 1900's
- I saw all the people hustling early in the morning to go into the factories and the stores and the office buildings, to do their job, to get their check. But ultimately it's not office buildings or jobs that give us our checks. It's the soil. The soil is what gives us the real income that supports us all.-Ed Begley; late 1900's
- Soil erosion is as old as agriculture. It began when the first heavy rain struck the first furrow turned by a crude implement of tillage in the hands of prehistoric man. It has been going on ever since, wherever man's culture of the earth has bared the soil to rain and wind.-Hugh H. Bennett and W.C. Lowdermilk; 1930's

Give credit where credit is due...developed by the mAGic writing team for the Soil mAGic kit.

Soil Quotes Handout - Say It With Soil

- We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.-Aldo Leopold; 1949
- I bequeath myself to the dirt, to grow from the grass I love; If you want me again, look for me under your boot-soles.-Walt Whitman; 1855
- We are part of the earth and it is part of us...What befalls the earth befalls all the sons of the earth.-Chief Seattle; 1854
- Each soil has had its own history. Like a river, a mountain, a forest, or any natural thing, its present condition is due to the influences of many things and events of the past.-Charles Kellogg; 1956
- Nature has endowed the earth with glorious wonders and vast resources that man may use for his own ends. Regardless of our tastes or our way of living, there are none that present more variations to tax our imagination than the soil, and certainly none so important to our ancestors, to ourselves, and to our children.-Charles Kellogg; 1956
- Man and man's earth are unexhausted and undiscovered. Wake and listen! Verily, the earth shall yet be a source of recovery. Remain faithful to the earth, with the power of your virtue. Let your gift-giving love and your knowledge serve the meaning of the earth.-Friedrich Nietzsche; 1870's – 1880's
- A cloak of loose, soft material, held to the earth's hard surface by gravity, is all that lies between life and lifelessness.-Wallace H. Fuller; 1975
- I cannot conceive of the time when knowledge of soils will be complete. Our expectation is that our successors will build on what has been done, as we are building on the work of our predecessors.-R.S. Smith; 1928
- Soils are developed; they are not merely an accumulation of debris resulting from decay of rock and organic materials...In other words, a soil is an entity – an object in nature which has characteristics that distinguish it from all other objects in nature.-C.E. Millar & L.M. Turk; 1943
- We spend our lives hurrying away from the real, as though it were deadly to us. "It must be somewhere up there on the horizon," we think. And all the time it is in the soil, right beneath our feet.-William Bryant Logan; 1996
- Plowed ground smells of earthworms and empires.-Justin Isherwood; 1990
- A nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself.-Franklin D. Roosevelt; 1937
- The wealth of Illinois is in her soil and her strength lies in its intelligent development.-Draper; 1899

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