

**Key Vocabulary**

**soil** – a mixture of small rocks, organic matter and water

**organic matter** – the remains of dead animals and plants

**nutrients** – substances found in soil which help plants grow

**independent variable** (what will change) – the type of soil, such as sandy, clay, chalky and peat soil

**dependent variable** (what will be measured) – the volume of water entering the measuring cylinder

**controlled variable** (what is kept the same) – the mass of the soil used in the experiment, the type of filter paper, the amount of water added to each soil sample

**absorb** – to take in water

**data** – information collected, such as facts, observations or numbers

**filter paper** – a piece of equipment that is used to separate materials.

**filter funnel** – a piece of equipment that allows liquids such as water to enter the measuring cylinder.

**measuring cylinder** – a piece of equipment that allows measurement of liquids.

**Key Knowledge**

- Organic matter is the remains of dead plants and animals.
  - Soils are made from rocks, organic matter and water.
- There are different types of soil including sandy, chalk, clay and peat soil.



**sandy soil** – a soil made up of lots of sand and some clay



**clay soil** – a soil containing lots of clay which becomes sticky when wet



**peat soil** – a soil that contains lots of water and organic matter



**chalky soil** – a soil that contains lots of chalk or limestone



**organic matter** – the remains of dead animals and plants

- Different soils have different properties.
- Many living things need soil to survive.
  - Soils provide nutrients for plants.
- Soils can act as a habitat for many small animals.
- Soils can also prevent flooding, as they absorb water.

