

ACTIVITY ONE: STEP-BY-STEP FLOTATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS

1. Measure a one-liter soil sample from your assigned feature and pour it into your empty bucket. Write down your soil sample number as assigned by your teacher.



2. Fill the bucket with water, leaving a few inches of space at the top, so you do not spill. Test the weight of your bucket as you fill it to make sure you can easily lift it when you have to pour water out. Go to your designated waste water bucket or area.
3. Carefully swirl your arm in the bucket and use your hand to break up the soil at the bottom. You may have to squish the soil through your fingers. This should cause charred plant remains or possibly other materials in your soil to float toward the top. What you collect from this process is called your **light fraction**.
4. One partner will slowly and carefully pour water from the bucket into the sieve that the other partner is holding over the wastewater area or receptacle. Do not pour so fast that the heavy soil at the bottom comes out! You should see materials collecting in the sieve. You might see seeds, but what else do you notice? Take breaks as needed from pouring water to empty the materials from the sieve onto your drying tray. Continuing, pour as much water as possible from the bucket without moving the heavy soil from the bottom.



