



Earth Science Education Activity

Exploring Soils in Platteville, Wisconsin

Accompany soil scientists on field visits across Platteville, Wisconsin on this **virtual field exploration** (bit.ly/VFE_Platteville). As you go along, click on hotspots to learn more through readings, videos, and pictures. Take detailed notes on each location, including observations about the landscape, land use, and soil characteristics. Consider how the geology, climate, and human activities influence the soil at each site.

Notes about Platteville, WI and the Driftless Area

STOP 1: KEARN'S FAMILY FARM

General Notes:

Soil Observations:

Questions you have related to this site:

STOP 2: KNEE DEEP ROAD HISTORIC MINE SITE

General Notes:

Soil Observations:

Questions you have related to this site:

STOP 3: LOEFFELHOLZ FARM AND QUARRY

General Notes:

Soil Observations:

Questions you have related to this site:

REFLECTION

After visiting all the sites, take time to reflect on what you have learned about soils, landscapes, and their connections to land use and human activity. Use the following questions to guide your reflection:

1. How did soil characteristics vary between sites, and what might explain these differences?
2. What are three to five key takeaways about soil from this field experience alongside soil scientists?
3. If you could investigate one of these sites further, what would you want to test or analyze, and why? What additional data would help you better understand the soil?
4. How do the fieldwork methods used by soil scientists help us better understand soil and its importance?
5. What new questions do you have about soils, soil-related careers, and/or land use after this field experience?