Inquiry B3
Student Sheet B3

How Thirsty Is The Ground On Our School Site?

NAMES _____

Our Study Site

Description: _____
(lawn, woods, unmowed field, under shrubs, in woods, etc.)

Plants: _____
(grass, moss, dead leaves, sticks, weeds, tree roots, etc.)

Soil condition: _____
(dry, wet, rocky, bare, hard, loose, sandy, etc.)

Water Percolation Measurements

Starting time: _____

Starting height: _____inches

Height of Water In Can After. . .

1 minute	_____inches	7 minutes	_____inches
2 minutes	_____inches	8 minutes	_____inches
3 minutes	_____inches	9 minutes	_____inches
4 minutes	_____inches	10 minutes	_____inches
5 minutes	_____inches	15 minutes	_____inches
6 minutes	_____inches	20 minutes	_____inches
		_____ minutes	_____ inches

(over)

QUESTIONS TO ANSWER

Make the following predictions, based on the information you gathered from your can outside.

1. Do you think that a large flat area of soil like the kind in your study site could absorb a slow, gentle rain that took 10 hours to add up to 2 inches? Why or why not?

2. Do you think that a large flat area of soil like the kind in your study site could absorb hard, steady rain that took 1 hour to add up to 2 inches? Why or why not?

3. Would the predictions that you made for question #2 be different if the soil were located on a steep hillside? Why would your predictions change or remain the same?

4. The amount of water already in the soil also affects the rate at which water is absorbed. How do you think that the rate of absorption might change if no rain had fallen in your area the week before your experiment? Would the soil absorb water faster? Slower ? At the same rate?

5. What if it had rained heavily the night before you performed this experiment? Would the soil absorb water faster? Slower? At the same rate?

6. Graph how quickly the water was absorbed into the ground