



Soils Under the Microscope

air pore spaces

rock fragment

1

x10

x50

x200

x1,000

2

x10

x50

x200

x1,000

soil
acreatures

sand

air pores

Fantastic Facts!
The microscope helps us to see deep into the structure of soil and to see all the components of soil as well as the huge variety of life.
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Fantastic Facts!
Did you know just under half soil volume is air and water!
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clay

soil creature

silt

3

x10

x50

x200

x1,000

x10

x50

x200

x1,000

bacteria

clay

4

1. 10x magnification

At 10x magnification you can see the rock fragments and sand particles. There are also organic fragments and large air pockets, or pores.

2. 50x magnification

At 50x magnification you can see the smaller soil creatures who live in the soil pores. Sand particles, silt and plant cells may be visible.

3. 200x magnification

At 200x you can pick out all the parts of soil. Clumps of clay, the smallest mineral fraction of soils is clearly visible

4. 1000x magnification At 1000x you can see the individual clay particles clearly and fungus threads.