School soil poster competition

Competition

SEFARI are running a poster competition for groups of school students to design a poster highlighting the importance of soils.

The posters can focus on a specific area for example soils and water or peatland soils or can address a range of issues and soil types.

They can be international in their focus or focus on issues relating to Scottish soils. They can also be built around soil topics covered in the school curriculum.

Judging

We are looking for posters that catch the imagination. For primary pupils it might be more of an art and craft project. For secondary pupils we would be looking for something with interesting facts showing some understanding of how they link together.

Submit your posters digitally. Either send us a PDF or take a high resolution photo of your art work and we will print them.

Prizes

Prizes for primary and Secondary schools:
1st prize: Soil auger, spade & £100 for soil's equipment
2nd prize: £100 for soil's equipment

What next?

Posters will be displayed at the Aberdeen Science Centre or the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh and an event at the RBGE celebrating world soils day on the 3nd December 2017.

Contact details

Aberdeen based schools:
Dr. Nikki Baggaley
nikki.baggaley@hutton.ac.uk

Edinburgh based schools:
Dr. Sarah Buckingham
Sarah.Buckingham@sruc.ac.uk

Key dates

Deadline for entries is the **25th November 2017** so they can be on display for our celebration of World Soils Day on the **3rd December 2017**

Supported by:

The James Hutton Institute
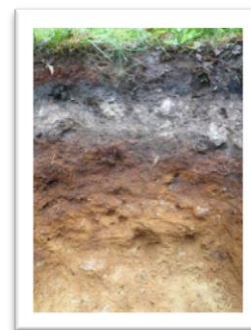
SRUC

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

BRITISH SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE

ABERDEEN SCIENCE CENTRE

GeoBus

SEFARI
LEADING IDEAS FOR BETTER LIVES

The Scottish Government

Scottish Environment, Food and Agriculture Research Institutes

Not just mud …

Soils come in may different forms and have different functions. Peat soils are meters thick store carbon and provide a distinctive taste to some of Scotland's famous whiskies. Brown, free-draining soils are perfect for growing cereals and potatoes. Wetter gleyed soils have blue/green tinges due to their intermittent water logging –under careful cultivation can provide us with good pasture land.

Soils are not just mineral particles of sand, silt and clay, but they also contain an immense diversity of life. Remarkably, soils host one quarter of the earth's biodiversity. Fungi, bacteria and other organisms make soil a living, breathing entity.

Soils are priceless and irreplaceable. We need to protect and use them responsibly for the functions they give us. Without healthy soils we wouldn't have food or clean water. Damaging our soils and losing the carbon in them can be a contributor to climate change. We have a huge shared responsibility to safeguard for generations to come.

Resources

There are lots of resources and information out there but here are a few we'd recommend as a good starting point

British Soil Science Society [BSSS]

BSSS provide a range of posters with soils information experiments and facts about different soils.

http://www.soils.org.uk/education

Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh

Find out more about the plants and bugs that are at home in soils around the world.

http://www.rbge.org.uk/education/home

James Hutton Institute

The James Hutton Institute provide a variety of soil educational resources. A key part of this is the soil characters, creating personalities for the major soils of Scotland. With key facts aimed at different levels from primary school upwards.

http://www.hutton.ac.uk/learning/dirt-doctor

Scotland's Rural College

Use the Visual Evaluation of Soil Structure (VESS) for soil health as a straightforward, quick soil test. SRUC also have field sampling assessment demonstration videos.

https://www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120625/visual_evaluation_of_soil_structure

Joint Research Centre [JRC]

JRC provides a range of soil atlases with fantastic basic and more complex soil information, maps, photos and more…

http://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/content/soil-atlas-europe

Scotland's Soils

Explore Scotland's soils website. Learn more about the soils of Scotland. View interactive maps and learn about how you can be involved in monitoring Scotland's soils.

http://soils.environment.gov.scot/