

## Soils: Observations of Student Performance

STUDENT'S NAME:

### Concepts

- Soil contains particles of different sizes.
- Soil may contain animals, plants, or their remains.
- Over time, dead plants become part of soil.
- Composting—especially with worms—is an effective way to recycle old plants and other discarded organic matter.
- Sand, clay, and humus are three of the basic components in soil.
- Every soil component has unique properties that can be identified using simple tests.
- Different soils absorb water at different rates.
- Many factors, including soil, affect plant and root growth.

### Observations

### Skills

- Performing simple tests to describe and identify soil components.
- Observing, recording, and organizing test results.
- Interpreting test results to draw conclusions about soil composition.
- Reflecting on test results to predict how plants will grow in different soils.
- Assembling and handling equipment for soil experiments.
- Communicating results and ideas through writing, drawing, and discussion.
- Applying previously learned concepts and skills to analyze unfamiliar soil samples.