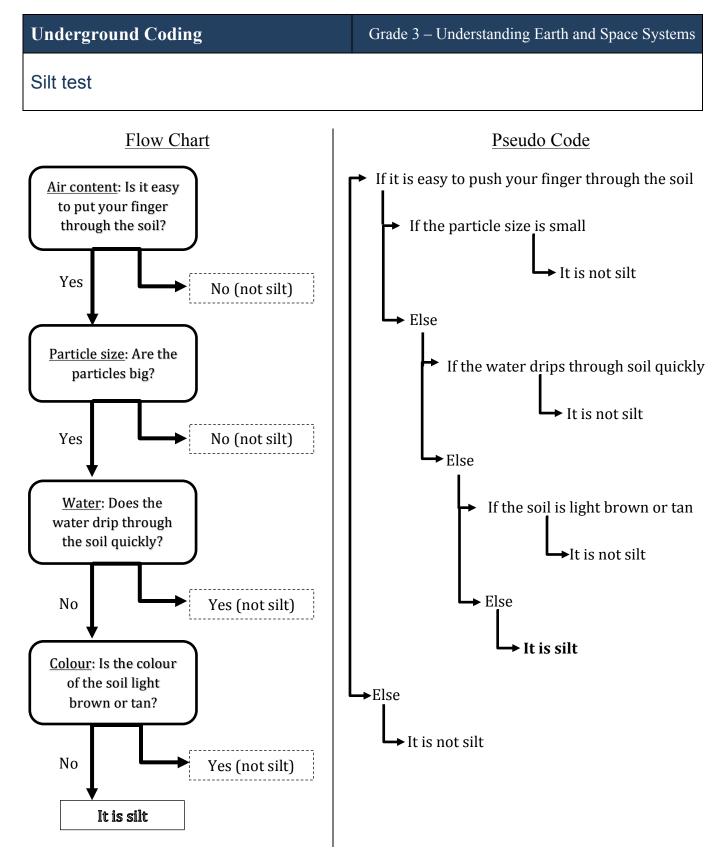


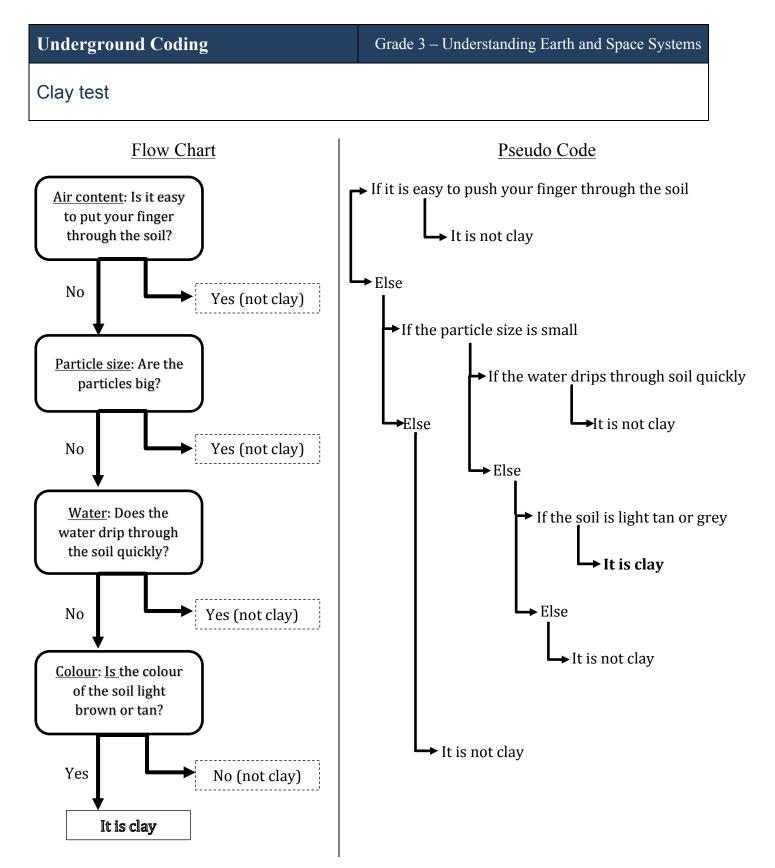
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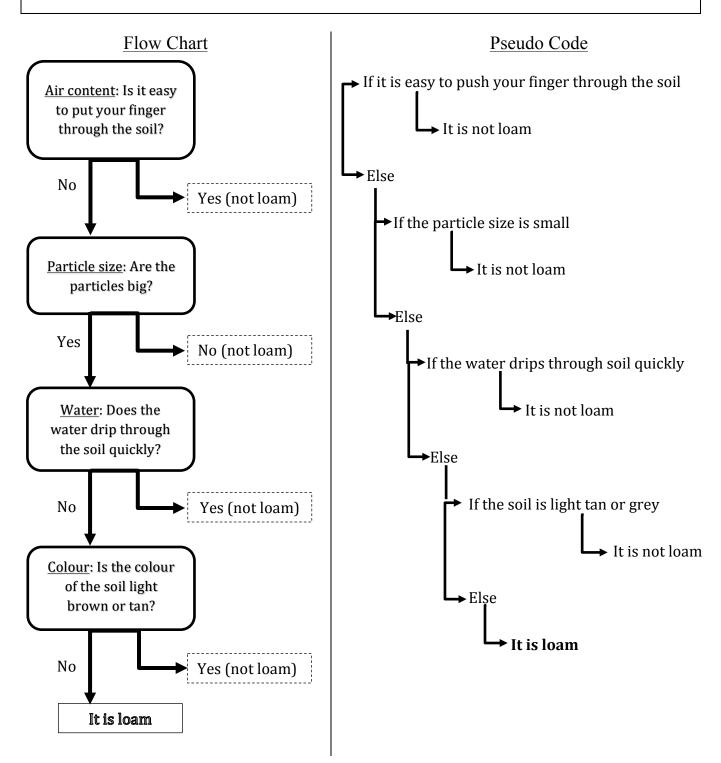


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Loam test



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## **Underground Coding**

Grade 3 – Understanding Earth and Space Systems

## Breakdown

Soil types	Air content	Particle size	Water content	Colour
Sand	Loosely packed thus, more water penetrates through. Not suitable for agriculture (ie. desert)	Biggest rock particle size. Able to see individual grains, even feel them with your fingers.	Water will flow through the particles with ease and drips	Light tan colour, (low in nutrient and organic matter)
Clay	Soil is densely packed leaving very little air space. Not suitable for agriculture because of the lack of space as well as moisture retention.	Smallest rock particle size. Difficult to see or feel individual grains. Clay feels sticky when wet.	Water does not go through the soil. Particles are generally stuck together, not allowing water to pass through.	Light grey/red colour (may contained small amounts of organic matter)
Loam	Mix of sand, clay, silt. The best option for growing crops.	Mix of clay, sand and silt. Size may vary but generally large particles	This soil holds water. The mix of this soil can include organic matter and can be compacted.	Dark brown/black colour (organic matter)
Silt	Holds more water and nutrients thus, beneficial for agriculture	Large rock particle size. Magnifying glass is needed to see individual grains. Smaller than sand but larger than clay	Organic matter is found in this soil. Soil is deposited by rivers. Holds in water.	Dark brown/red colour (organic matter)