**Water Quality**

**ACTIVITY THREE: Soil Quality Evaluation**

Soil quality is an evaluation of how well soil does the things we need it to do, specifically how water quality is maintained or enhanced. Soil samples, if collected, from regions discussed in the land resource areas of the state could be used to test for soil quality. Soil from the school yard and other area places can also be used. Students will be able to determine for themselves what type of soil best filters water as it moves through the ground. In the Reelfoot Lake watershed area (as in all watershed areas), the quality of the soil influences the quality of the lake downstream, which effects the economy, etc. in that area.

This would be a good time to invite someone from the nearby Soil Conservation District and talk about what their office does for the area. For the Obion County Soil Conservation District, NRSC Office, in Union City, the contact is Josh Richardson

**Materials:**

* Soil Quality Evaluation handout (explanation)
* Soil Quality Evaluation Data Sheet
* Various soil samples
* Instructional diagram for determining soil texture by feel
* Paint chips \*\*see below
* Plot flags or wire coat hangers
* Shovels, trowels, and/or post-hole diggers
* Uncoated wooden rulers or small dowels to soak up water

\*\*Find a soil quality chart online (they are expensive to purchase) and then go to a paint store and find paint chips to match the soil quality paint chart to use instead.