



SAMPLER

Demonstrate core sampling.

Materials

3 Different colors of modeling clay
Drinking straw
Fingernail scissors



Procedure

- Soften an egg-sized piece of each color of clay by squeezing it in your hands.
- Flatten the clay pieces, and stack them on top of each other to form a block about 1 inch deep.
- Push the straw through the layers of clay.
- Pull the straw back out and use the scissors to carefully cut open the straw along the side.
- Remove the clay plug.

Results

The straw cuts a cylinder-shaped sample from the layered stack of clay!

Why?

As the straw cuts through the clay, the clay is pushed up inside the hollow tube. The captured clay is called a core sample, and it reveals what materials are layered inside the block of clay. Coring devices made of metal are used to cut through layers of soil just as the layers of clay were cut. The metal core sampler has a plunger that pushes the soil out so that it can be studied.