

Who's Living in My Soil? Clue Cards

<p>Soil Worker 1: I am an isopod. This means I have 10 pairs of small walking legs.</p>	<p>Soil Worker 1: I curl into a ball when I am disturbed.</p>
<p>Soil Worker 1: I eat rotting leaves and bark and the fungi that grows on it. I am an important 'Recycler'.</p>	<p>Soil Worker 1: My exoskeleton is made up of gray, flattened plates that make me look like an armadillo.</p>
<p>Soil Worker 1: I am about $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long and am found in damp places in gardens and forests.</p>	<p>Soil Worker 2: My name means 'thousand legs'. I have one pair of legs on each of my first three segments and two pairs of legs on each of the other segments.</p>
<p>Soil Worker 2: I eat dead and decaying leaves, flowers, and animals like earthworms, snails and insects. I also feed on the fungi growing on dead organisms. I am an important 'Recycler'.</p>	<p>Soil Worker 2: I can grow to over 3 inches long and have a segmented body. I am thick-skinned and black or dark brown with reddish or yellow edges.</p>

<p>Soil Worker 2: People often confuse me with centipedes, but we're not even related! We are the same in that we both like dark, moist places and are nocturnal.</p>	<p>Soil Worker 2: After mating, a female eats soil, then poops it out and makes a nest to place her eggs in.</p>
<p>Soil Worker 3: I help the Soil Department by breaking down dead wood.</p>	<p>Soil Worker 3: I live in a colony with a queen, female workers and males.</p>
<p>Soil Worker 3: I am $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long and am black or reddish in color.</p>	<p>Soil Worker 3: Our nests are built in the cavities of woods. Other species build mounds in the soil and are useful in aerating the soil by burrowing tunnels.</p>
<p>Soil Worker 4: I am $\frac{1}{4}$ - $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches long and can be brown or colorful, depending on the species.</p>	<p>Soil Worker 4: I am found in leaf litter or on the surface of the ground. The best place to find me is in fresh poop!</p>

<p>Soil Worker 4: I eat dung, or poop! I help the Soil Department by breaking down animal feces and returning the nutrients to the soil. Some species will also feed on dead animals or decaying plants.</p>	<p>Soil Worker 4: As part of reproduction, a male and female roll a ball of dung. The female then lays one egg in the dung ball and covers it with soil. The larva feeds on the dung and pupates in the soil.</p>
<p>Soil Worker 4: The sacred scarab beetle of Egypt is part of my family.</p>	<p>Soil Worker 5: My body is long, tubular, segmented, legless and covered with slimy mucus. There are 4 pairs of tiny bristles on each segment of my body that help me to move through the soil.</p>
<p>Soil Worker 5: I help the Soil Department by aerating the soil and recycling soil matter. I also dig tunnels, loosening and mixing the soil.</p>	<p>Soil Worker 5: My castings, or poop, are very nutrient rich. Many people invite me to live in their gardens or use my poop as compost.</p>
<p>Soil Worker 5: I can live up to 10 years. I can even regenerate segments of my body if cut or injured. Pretty cool, huh!</p>	<p>Soil Worker 5: We stay in moist soil burrows during the day and emerge at night. During winter, we hibernate in balls with our friends deep in the soil.</p>

<p>Soil Worker 6: We vary in size and color. I have a shell on my back that covers vital organs.</p>	<p>Soil Worker 6: My soft, mucus-coated ‘foot’ can be seen protruding from my shell. It has two pairs of tentacles, the longer having eyes at the tip.</p>
<p>Soil Worker 6: We are found in moist, shady areas. We need limestone to build our shells, so are more numerous in areas where the soils contain limestone.</p>	<p>Soil Worker 6: I eat leaves, grasses, and rotting plants. The radula in my mouth grates food into small pieces. We help the Soil Department by adding organic matter to the soil.</p>