

CHAPTER 3	What Can You Infer from a Handful of Soil? Answer Key	BLM 3.1.2A
ANSWER KEY		

Answers to Analysis Questions

1. Evidence of living things in soil samples will vary from site to site. Examples include: grass (or other vegetation), leaves, moulds, insects (count and classify), burrows, and scats.
2. Soil samples will be different between disturbed and non-disturbed sites. Non-disturbed sites will have higher diversity of plants, contain more organic matter, and will be darker because of a thick humus layer. Disturbed sites will likely be more compacted, lighter in colour, and have less plant diversity and fewer insect burrows or evidence of other animals.
3. Possible inferences that will be made are: activities that take place at the site, comments on animals that use the site and why, level of development, and human use. It should be concluded that, based on the evidence gathered, one sample is from a disturbed site, and the other is from a natural site.