

**RIPARIAN SOIL SURVEY  
DATA FORM**



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School: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

Stream/Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Landscape Position:**

- Summit
- Slope
- Depression
- Large Flat Area
- Stream Bank

**Cover Type:**

- Bare Soil
- Rocks
- Grass
- Shrubs
- Trees

**Land Use:**

- Urban
- Agricultural
- Recreation
- Wilderness
- Other

Distance from stream: \_\_\_\_\_

Distinguishing site characteristics:

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Reference: GLOBE® 2005 Appendix- 2 Soil

**SOIL CHARACTERIZATION SURVEY ACTIVITY**

Task: Use an auger to expose a soil profile to determine soil characteristics within the riparian zone.

**What You Need:**

- Soil auger
- Spray bottle
- Riparian Soil Survey data form

**In the Field:**

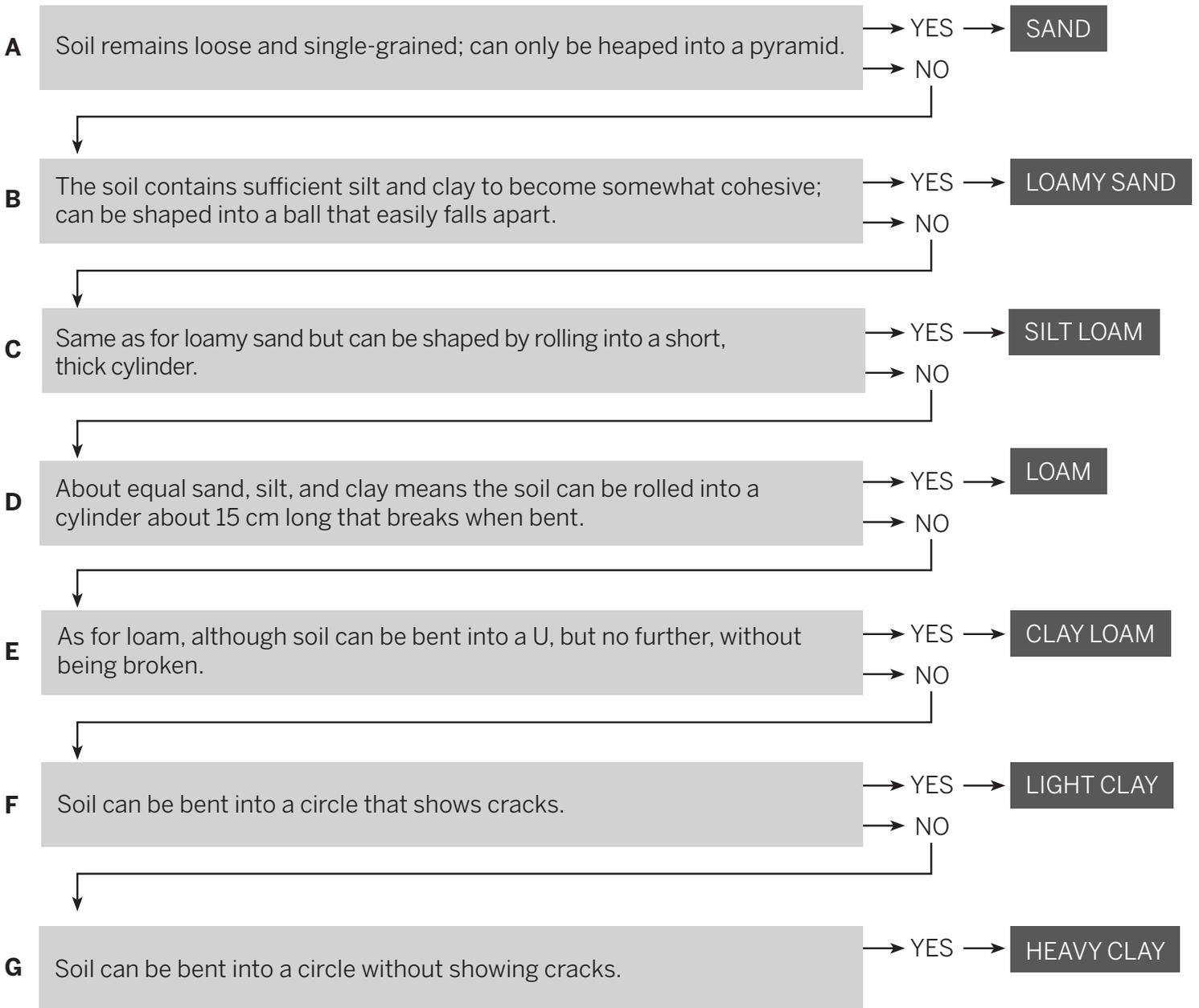
*Exposing the Soil Profile*

1. Identify a location where an auger can be used to expose a soil profile.
2. Remove the surface vegetation.
3. Place the auger at the top of the soil and turn the auger one complete revolution (360°) to dig into the ground. Do not turn the auger more than one complete circle (360°) to prevent the soil from being compacted.
4. Remove the auger with the sample from the hole
5. Keeping the soil sample inside the auger, identify if you have more than one soil horizon in your sample. If no, use the soil characterization key to identify your sample. If yes, use the soil characterization key to identify all different soil horizons.
6. For each soil horizon found, collect a small sample in your hand (about the size of a ping-pong ball). Using the spray bottle, moisten the soil and work between your fingers until it is the same moisture throughout. Begin the soil characterization key (on the back).

# SOIL CHARACTERIZATION KEY

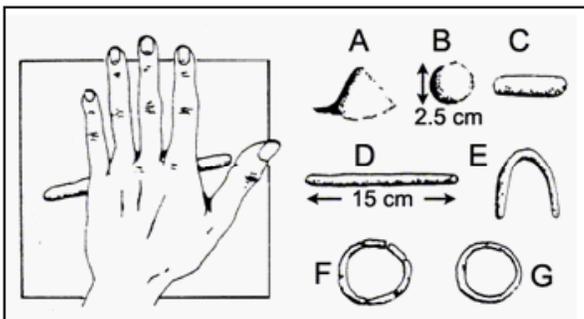
**START**

CIRCLE YOUR ANSWERS



The letters refers to the corresponding image in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1



Method and drawing after Ilaco (1985)

**My soil type is:**