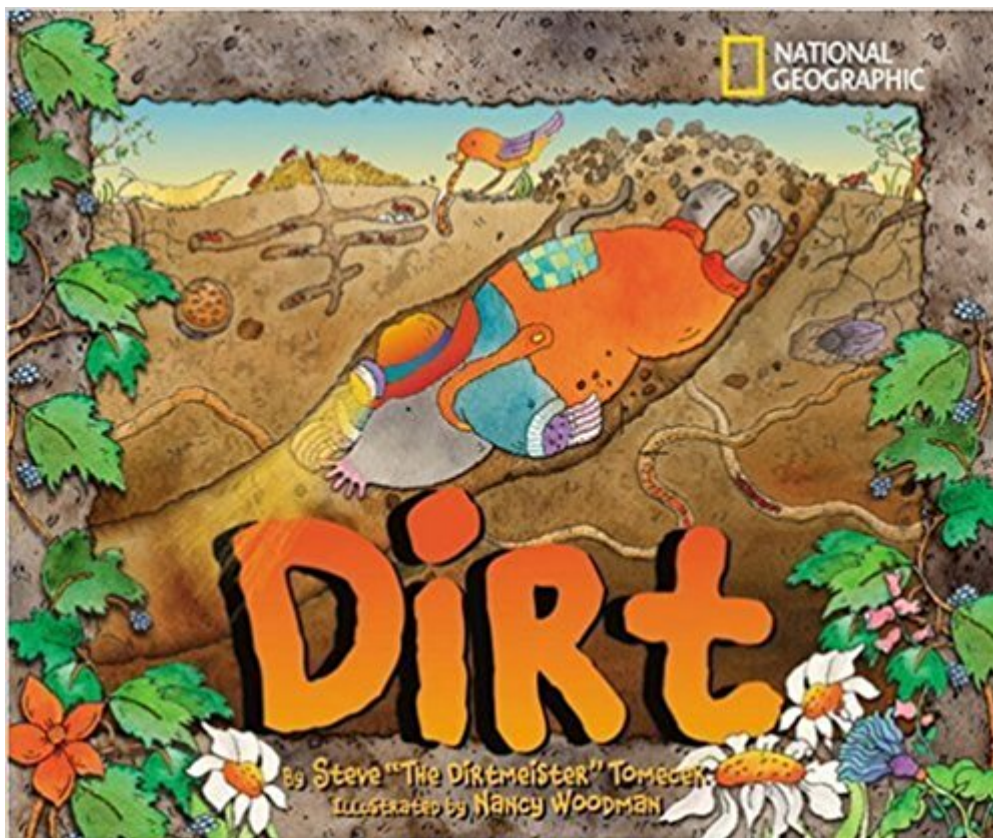


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# Dirt: Jump Into Science



## Synopsis

Young readers get down in the dirt with a friendly star-nosed mole as he shows off the different parts of his garden and some amazing creatures who live in the dirt. During this exciting tour, children discover what soil is, how it is formed, and why this substance is vital to plants, animals, and humans. Colorful art and simple text show how the soil that plants grow in differs from the soil that building foundations sit in, and help youngsters understand how this precious resource must be conserved.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 610 (What's this?)

Series: Jump Into Science

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: National Geographic Children's Books (September 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0792282043

ISBN-13: 978-0792282044

Product Dimensions: 11.2 x 0.4 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #322,629 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #185 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Earth Sciences](#) #196 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Experiments & Projects](#) #234 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Biology](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Grade 1-3-Sprightly illustrations featuring a mole sporting a cheerful wardrobe of play clothes brighten a straightforward text about the formation and importance of soil. Brief chapters explain what it's made of, what lives in it, and its layers and uses. The art is similar in style to that in Ellen J. Prager's *Sand* (National Geographic, 2000), also illustrated by Woodman. Each spread is surrounded by an earthy-brown border, and the watercolor pictures clarify the scientific concepts. Lighthearted touches such as a frog holding an umbrella and a mole joyfully tossing fall leaves appear throughout. Scientific accuracy and clarity of writing predominate, with one possible

exception-soil layers are most frequently formed from the top down by water passing through rather than by layering from the bottom up, as indicated in the text. A quick, pleasant introduction to earth science. Ellen Heath, Orchard School, Ridgewood, NJ Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Steve Tomecek, the executive director and founder of Science Plus, Inc., is the author of more than 45 books, including Dirtmeister's Nitty Gritty Planet Earth and several Jump into Science titles. He was the winner of the 1996 American Institute of Physics Excellence in Science Writing Award. Tomecek has served as the associate director of the Science Museum of Long Island and as the science program supervisor for the New York Hall of Science. He has written for and developed websites for Los Alamos National Labs, Scholastic, and Discovery. Tomecek lives in Bellerose, New York. Nancy Woodman is a children's book author and illustrator. She has worked on Sea-Fari Deep and the Jump into Science books Dirt, Volcano!, and Sand, a Parents' Choice winner for 2001. Woodman is also the cocreator of Worm Vue Wonders, an educational product about the role of earthworms in soil. She lives in Poulsbo, Washington. To learn more, visit [nanneroo.com](http://nanneroo.com).

This is an interesting and engaging book. A little technical for preschoolers but my three year old grandchild likes it and asks me to read it to him again.

I bought this book Dirt and also Sand by the same publisher. I now wish I would have gotten both copies in hardback. I nearly never feel that way because of the price difference. We buy alot of books! This is one I can use now with my middle schoolers, use later and use with Grandchildren some day. The pictures are vibranant and well laid out. The information is pertenient, and well placed and it is FUN to read! Pre-school through early High School could appreciate this book, understand it, and find it useful. Anyone who needs to understand our soil would do well with both these books. They cover different material so neither would be a repeat. National Geographic, as always did a great job. Excited Teacher in Nevada!

This is a great piece of nonfiction for children. It is well illustrated and the text is easily understood. Children will have a great understanding of soil and its importance. I read this to my class and we are doing one of the experiments presented in the back of the book. I love books that provide extension activities for children. Highly recommended. Young children need more exposure to good nonfiction and this book fits the bill.

If your state standards include soil, you need this book on your classroom bookshelf. I've used it for years to teach upper elementary science. It's excellent, correct information and facts, succinct. Can't recommend it highly enough. Of course, it is AR.

This book is a must for anyone that teaches soil. As a teacher in fourth grade I believe this book is an essential item for the classroom. It has wonderful images and gives steps to create your own soil experiment. This Book is Terrific!

Personally I enjoyed *Wiggling Worms at Work* (only about worms) much more than this book, and I'm a little surprised it is received so highly. It gave too many specifics that aren't important, like that scientists technically say that there are 100,000 types of soil, or something. What does that even mean? I thought things like this made it lose focus. One cool thing it talked about was how soil needs to have different types to be healthy, and if you pour water on clay, it just sits at the top. It also talked about how important topsoil is and how it can be blown away. It seemed more like a class than a fun book to learn just because learning is fun and dirt is magical. Overall, I didn't think it had a fluid feel to it as the book progressed. Maybe it's just me, but it didn't excite me like *Wiggling Worms at Work* did.

*DIRT* is a very accessible book. It starts simply and tries to make a connection with what readers already know about dirt. The author soon begins to call dirt "soil". It discusses soil's composition, formation, and use. It also covers the animals, insects, and organisms that live in soil. There is information about the layers of soil and conservation is mentioned briefly. There is a plant growing activity, but no resources for further study. The illustrations are colorful, clear, and kind of friendly. *DIRT* might be a good companion to the humorous "The Diary of a Worm". Karen Woodworth-Roman, Children's Science Book Review

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