Sedimentator (sediment stick) Answers

***These are answers that students shared in class today:***

2. Four things I see in the sediment stick are: air at the top, bubbles, murky water which probably has clay and silt particles in it, a layer of decomposing plant and animal matter (humus), sand, rock fragments or pebbles.

3. This sediment stick relates to rocks in a couple of ways. First, the sediments in the stick are examples of what make up sedimentary rocks. When these sediments get buried and cemented together over a long period of time, they become sedimentary rock. Second, when rocks get weathered or broken down, they become the inorganic sediments such as clay, silt, sand and gravel.

4. Everything that I see in the sediment stick are examples of things that can be found in soil. Soil is made of air, water, inorganic sediments (pebbles, clay, sand and silt) as well as organic sediments such as decomposing animal and plant matter.

5. This object is called a sedimentator because it is filled with organic (dark) and inorganic (lighter in color) sediments.

6. Sediment is bits of broken down rock, plants, and animals. The inorganic sediments form when rocks get weathered. The organic sediments form when plants and animals die and decomposing organisms such as bacteria and fungi start breaking them down (decomposition).

1. Inorganic sediment is made of nonliving things such as rock fragments, sand, silt and clay.
2. Organic sediment is made of living things such as decaying animals, animal waste, twigs, bark, pine straw, grass etc.

7.

a. I learned that organic means living or once living.

b. I learned that inorganic means non-living or never was living.

c. I learned that a suspension is a liquid that has particles in it. The clay and silt particles are floating (suspended) in the middle of the water column.

d. I learned that the most dense sediments sink to the bottom of the sediment stick and the least dense sediments are floating at the top.

e. I learned that layers of sediment form because the sediments have different densities and they layer according to their density with the most dense sediments sinking to the bottom and the least dense sediments floating at the top.

f. I learned that organic sediments are dark in color and inorganic sediments are light in color.

g. I learned the difference between Humus (organic matter found in soil) and Hummus (a dip made from Garbonzo beans or chickpeas.)