



Name: _____

Section: _____

Date: _____

SOIL BASICS: STUDENT ASSESSMENT

On a recent expedition, a team of researchers collected soil samples from three different sites in a tropical montane cloud forest. One scientist sealed each soil sample container and labeled it with the location, date, and time the sample was collected. As they were leaving the forest, the team encountered an hour-long downpour that soaked everything through and through. When they got back to their cabin, one team member opened a backpack to find that the soil sample labels had not been written in permanent ink and had washed away to mere smudges.

Use your knowledge of tropical montane soils to help the team identify which sample came from which site. The information below will help you solve this soil crisis. When you think you have identified the samples, write the sample numbers on the corresponding lines next to the site names.

Sites sampled:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| -Low elevation forest (1000 meters) | Sample _____ |
| -Mid-elevation forest (1400 meters) | Sample _____ |
| -High elevation forest (1600 meters) | Sample _____ |

Description of samples:

Sample 1: Soil is very dark brown. Contains a high level of organic material. Has a relatively high water content, yet still crumbles when handled.

Sample 2: Soil is dark brown. Contains a lot of organic material. There is significant water content, but not as much as in sample 1.

Sample 3: Soil is medium brown. Contains relatively low levels of organic material and water.