

To: Reggie Muldoon May 15
From: Jackie Sandburg, JOS Contractors

Mr. Muldoon,

Before we begin construction on your property, we must conduct a thorough site investigation. This letter explains the steps in that process.

First, we will do a complete **surface evaluation**. This will include a **topographic survey** of the surface features. The designers will use this data to design appropriate landscape features. We will also know if we need to move soil to make the site **level**.

Next, a **subsurface investigation** will be necessary. We need to know what kind of soil the foundation will rest on. A preliminary check showed mostly **sand** and larger pieces of **gravel**. However, there may also be weaker **silt** or **clay** soils present. We will dig several **test pits** to obtain a complete **soil profile**. Some of these will only be a few meters deep. For others we will use a **drill rig** to dig twenty meters down.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Jackie Sandburg



Get ready!

- 1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What are some different soil types?
- 2 What equipment digs deep into the ground?

Reading

- 2 Read the letter from a contractor to a landowner. Then, mark the statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 ☐ The topographic survey provides data for landscape design.
- 2 ☐ The preliminary investigation showed silt soil to be present.
- 3 ☐ The soil profile includes soil from twenty meters below the surface.

Vocabulary

- 3 Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> sand | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> surface evaluation |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> clay | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> silt |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> gravel | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> topographic survey |

- A a soil type with particles measuring between 0.002 mm and 0.02 mm in diameter
- B a soil type with particles measuring between 630 micrometers and 5 mm in diameter
- C an examination of the top layer of soil at a construction site
- D a soil type with particles measuring less than 0.002 mm in diameter
- E a soil type with particles measuring between 5mm and 75mm in diameter
- F an examination and description of the surface features of a construction site