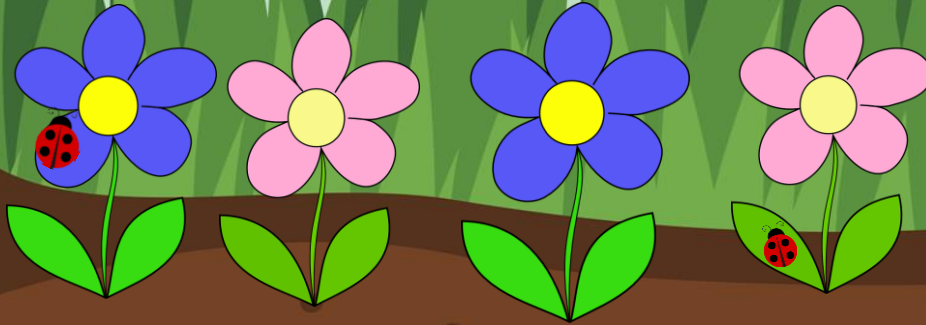
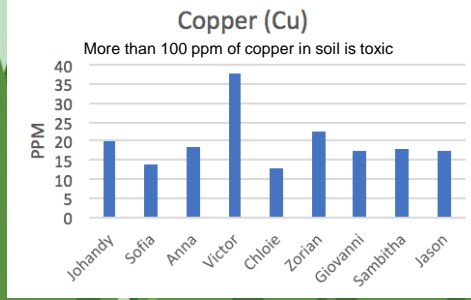
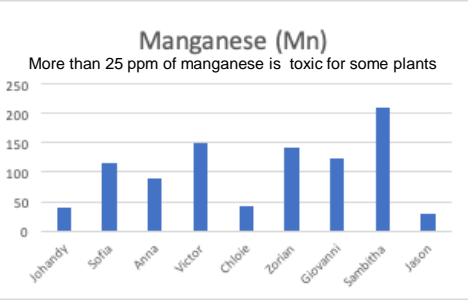


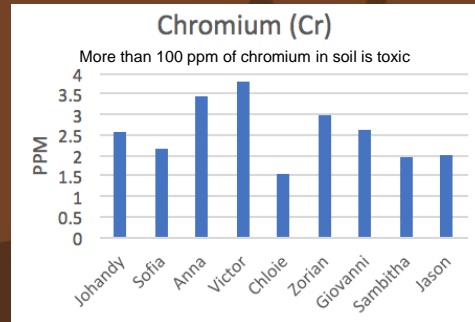
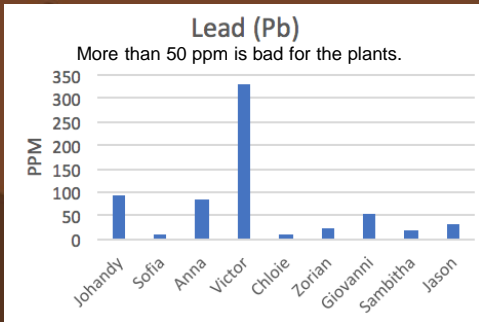
Digging Up Groundbreaking Elements!

Manganese and copper are used by plants to help with photosynthesis

Plants need soil nutrients to flourish. If plants don't get enough nutrients from the soil they will not grow well. But too many nutrients can be toxic for plants as well. That's why knowing the amount of nutrients in the soil can help us understand if the soil would be a good home for the plants we want to grow. Soil composition changes based on the location, which is why the soil color and texture can be so different. We started our experiment by testing nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus in the soil we collected, and find out if the amount of these nutrients is good for plant growth. At Trinity College, the students tested some other nutrients using a machine, called ICP-MS. Here is what was discovered!



ICP-MS Instrument

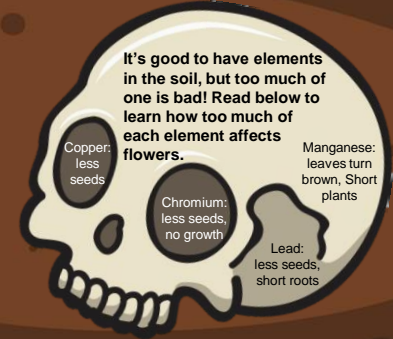


Soil Sample Examples
Notice how different they look!



Soil from Connecticut

Soil from Georgia



Lead and chromium can be harmful to plants and people at high levels. Lead levels less than 400 ppm are safe.