4.2 Notes Continued
Soil Properties
Draw the three sizes of particles:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SAND (largest)** | **SILT (smaller)** | **CLAY (smallest)** |

 **Properties that affect soil quality:**
Color:
-comes from iron compounds and humus
-lots of iron = reddish color
-lots of humus = black/brown color
-bright color = soil drains well

Pore Space:
-spaces between soil particles
-water and air move through particles
-best soil = ½ pore space is water, ½ pore space is air

Texture:
-determined by size of weathered rock particles (sand, silt, clay)

Chemistry (pH):
-how well nutrients dissolve in the water in soil depends on the
water’s pH (measure of acidity)
-High amounts of lime in soil = less acidic
-High amounts of acid in soil = more acidic