## Soil Contamination Pre-/Post-Evaluation Answer Key

# For the following questions, write answers in complete sentences.

# What are the three phases of soil?

**Soil consists of three phases: water, solid and air.**

# What are the types of soil?

**The four types of soil are: clay, silt, sand and gravel.**

# Why is soil contamination a problem for people and engineers?

**Soil contamination can leak into groundwater and surface water. U.S. citizens get 50% of their drinking water from groundwater. Soil contamination can also harm plants and animals.**

# How can soil become contaminated?

**Soil can be contaminated from any of the following reasons: unregulated industrial waste disposal; agricultural forms of soil pollution such as livestock, fertilizers and pesticides; leaking underground gasoline storage tanks; septic systems; landfills; and mining activities.**

# What is a calibration? Describe one example.

**A calibration is a way to find a known reference point, or set of points. For example, a smart board needs to be calibrated so your writing appears at the correct location. As another example, a scale needs to be calibrated to zero before weighing something. Also, most sensors need to be calibrated.**

# For the following questions, circle the best choice from the possible answers.

1. **What do you call an underground location where waste is stored?**
2. **Landfill**
3. **Waste fill**
4. **Dump site**

# What is pollution?

* 1. **Contamination is always pollution.**
  2. **Contamination that is not hazardous to human health.**
  3. **Contamination that is hazardous to human health.**

1. **What is a well?** 
   1. **A pretty place for flowers to grow.**
   2. **A large, deep hole in the ground that can be used to pump water out, or observe the soil and groundwater below.**
   3. **A location where soil contamination always exists.**