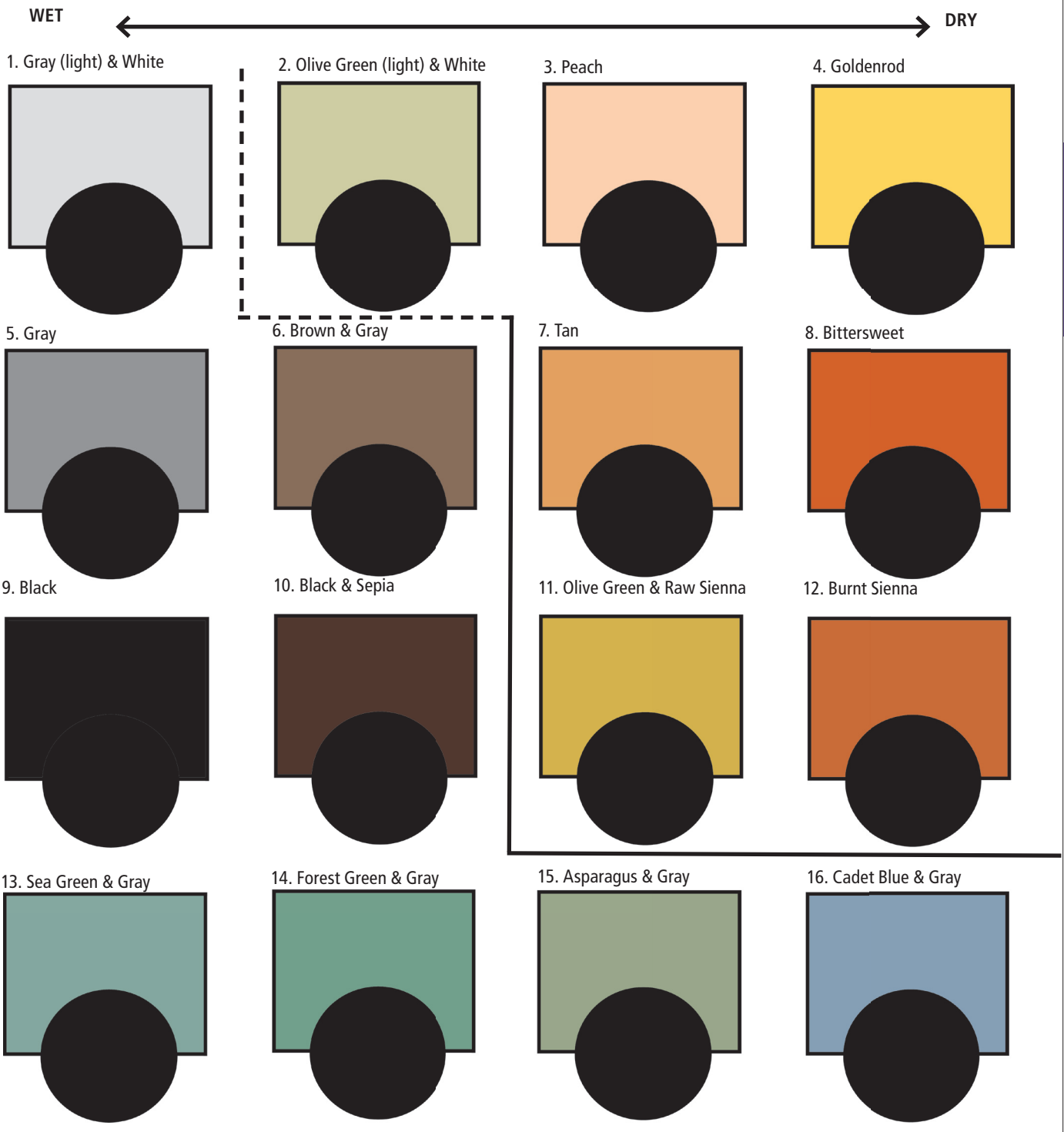
Cut out the whole chart and paste it to a piece of poster board or half of a folder. Carefully cut out the black circles through all thicknesses.

Use this color chart when studying soil "in the field." (This is what ecologists and other scientists call going outside to examine a site.) Wetland professionals use similar, but much more complicated, color charts to help them correctly identify wetland soils. Hold the chart in one hand; in the other hand hold a sample of soil behind the chart, so that it is visible through one of the holes. Move the sample around until you find a color that nearly matches the main color of the soil.

Numbers 1, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16 and sometimes 2 are probably wetland soils; the others are probably not wetland soil. Numbers 14–16 are gleyed wetland soils and are most likely made of clay. You can also use numbers 4, 8 and 12 to match mottles ("rust spots") that may be found in wetland soil.



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Students name(s): _____ Dates: _____

Description of location: _____

Description of plants present: _____

_____

Possible evidence of animals (burrows, insects, human artifacts—of value or trash): _____

_____

Possible sources of water: _____

_____

_____

Depth of Soil Sample	Soil Sample Color Classification	Dampness of Soil Sample (Does it stick in a ball? Can water be squeezed out?)	Soil Sample Texture (Is it like coarse sand, fine silt or clay?)

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