Name: _____Date: _____ Class: _____

Soil Contamination Pre-/Post-Evaluation Answer Key

For the following questions, write answers in complete sentences.

1. **What are the three phases of soil?**

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

2. **What are the types of soil?**

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

3. **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.

4. **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.

5. **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.

6. **What do you call an underground location where waste is stored?**
   - **a. Landfill**
   - **b. Waste fill**
   - **c. Dump site**

7. **What is pollution?**
   - **a. Contamination is always pollution.**
   - **b. Contamination that is not hazardous to human health.**
   - **c. Contamination that is hazardous to human health.**

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