



Science focus

Rocks

Year 3

Spring Term 1

## What? (Key Knowledge)

Soil is the uppermost layer of the Earth. It is a mixture of different things: minerals (the minerals in soil come from finely broken-down rock); air; water and organic matter (including living and dead plants and animals).

The process of fossilisation

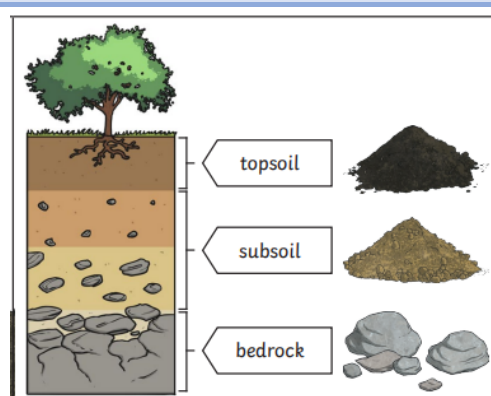
An animal dies, It gets covered with sediments which eventually become rock. More layers of rock cover it. Only hard parts of the creature remain, e.g. bones, shells and teeth. Over thousands of years, sediment might enter the mould to make a cast fossil. Bones may change to mineral but will stay the same shape. Changes to the sea level take place over a long period of time. As erosion and weathering take place, eventually the fossil becomes exposed.

## What? (Key Vocabulary)

Igneous rock	Rock that has been formed from magma or lava.
Sedimentary rock	Rock that has been formed by layers of sediment being pressed down hard and sticking together.
Metamorphic rock	Rock that started out as igneous or sedimentary rock but changed due to exposure to extreme heat or pressure.
magma	Molten rock that remains underground.
lava	Molten rock that comes out of the ground is called lava.
sediment	Natural soil material that is moved and dropped off in a new place by water or wind, e.g. sand.
permeable	Allows liquids to pass through it,
impermeable	Does not allow liquids to pass through it.
fossilisation	The process by which fossils are made.
palaeontology	The study of fossils.
erosion	When water, wind or ice wears away land.

## Diagrams and Symbols

Natural Rocks			Human-Made Rocks
Igneous	Sedimentary	Metamorphic	
Obsidian 	Chalk 	Marble 	Brick 
Granite 	Sandstone 	Quartzite 	Concrete 
Basalt 	Limestone 	Slate 	Coade Stone 



## Investigation

We will be comparing and grouping different kinds of rocks on the basis of their properties.