

Year 3 Science – Rocks and Soils

Key Skills

- I can name different types of rock.
- I can compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties.
- I can describe how fossils are formed.
- I can recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter.

Igneous	Sedimentary	Metamorphic
Obsidian	Chalk	Marble
Granite	Limestone	Gneiss
Pumice	Sandstone	Quartzite
Basalt	Shale	Slate

- Soil
- Soil forms less than 10% of land
 - Soil contains the water and nutrients needed for plants to grow.
 - Soil can be damaged by erosion and pollution.

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. You can see the layers of sediment in the rock.
metamorphic rock	Rock that started out as igneous or sedimentary rock but changed due to being exposed 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 solid 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.

Soil Type	Properties
Sandy Soil 	A dry soil which drains easily and has lots of air in it
Clay Soil 	Sticky and does not have much air. It can hold a lot of water. It cracks when it dries.
Loam Soil 	10-30% of clay and 25-50% sand. It holds a bit of water and has plenty of air in it. Loam soils also have a lot of humus (dead plant and animal matter). Most plants grow well in loam soils.

Fossils	<p>What is a fossil? A fossil is the preserved remains or impressions of a living organism such as a plant, animal, or insect. Some fossils are very old. Studying fossils helps scientists to learn about the past history of life on Earth.</p> <p>Where are fossils found? Fossils are found all over the world. Most fossils are found in sedimentary rock such as shale, limestone, and sandstone.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>
Examples of rocks.	Granite, chalk, limestone, sandstone, basalt, marble, pumice and slate.