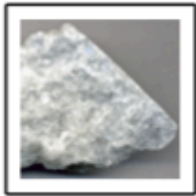


Rocks

If you dig down anywhere on Earth you will find rock. Rocks can be hard, soft, permeable or impermeable, depending on what type of rock it is. Slate, marble, chalk and granite are all different types of rock and all have different uses.



marble



granite



sandstone



basalt



slate



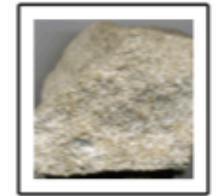
clay



chalk



pumice



limestone

Soils



Top soil – full of nutrients and contains rotting plants and organisms.

Subsoil – tightly packed soil, lighter in colour to the top soil as it contains fewer nutrients.

Rocky soil – rocks that are breaking down in to soil.

Bedrock – just rock.

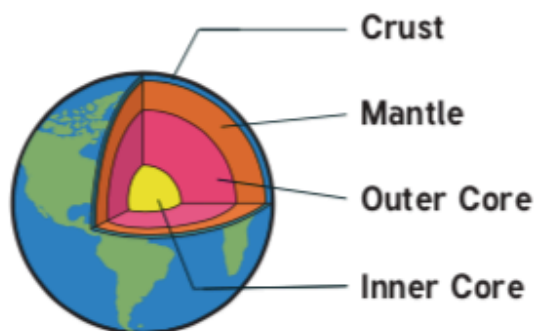
Fossils

A fossil is the preserved remains or traces of a dead organism. The process by which a fossil is formed is called fossilisation.



Under our feet

Under our feet is a layer of rock. This layer of rock is under every town and city, under fields and forests and even under the sea!



Types of rock

Igneous rock – When a volcano is about to erupt, magma comes to the surface. As it flows down the volcano and across the land, it cools and turns back into a solid. This forms rock.

Sedimentary rock – When a river reaches the sea, pieces of broken rock settle at the bottom of the sea to form a layer of sediment. Over millions of years, more and more layers of sediment settle on top and squash it down until it turns into rock.

Metamorphic rock – Metamorphic rock is formed from other rocks that are changed because of heat or pressure.

Key Vocabulary

Crust – the outer layer of the Earth.

Decay – to rot or decompose.

Fossil – the preserved remains of a dead organism.

Geologist – a person who studies rocks.

Igneous Rock – rock formed from cooled magma.

Impermeable – doesn't allow liquid to pass through.

Inner core – the very centre of the Earth.

Mantle – the part of the Earth between the crust and the core.

Metamorphic rock – rock formed from changes of heat or pressure.

Microbe – a small living thing.

Mine – to dig into the Earth for rocks and minerals.

Permeable – allows liquid to pass through.

Rock – any naturally occurring solid mineral material.

Sedimentary rock – rock formed by layers of sediment

Soil – made up of pieces of rock, minerals, decaying plant material, microbes and water.