Rocks and Soils

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.







granite



sandstone



basalt



slate



clav



chalk

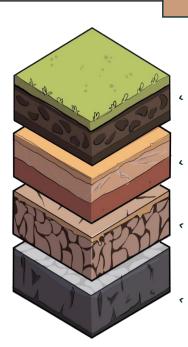


pumice



limestone

Soils



Top soil which is full of nutrients and contains rotting plants and organisms.

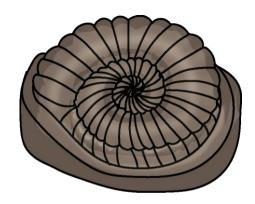
Subsoil which is tightly packed soil, lighter in colour to the top soil as it contains fewer nutrients.

Rocky soil which is rocks that are breaking down in to soil.

Bedrock which is just rock.

Fossils

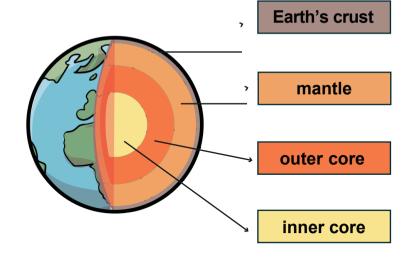
A fossil is the preserved remains or traces of a dead organism. The process by which a fossil is formed is called fossilisation.





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Under our feet



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 laver of the Earth decay - to rot or decompose fossil - the preserved remains of a dead organism **geologist** - a person who studies rocks ianeous 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