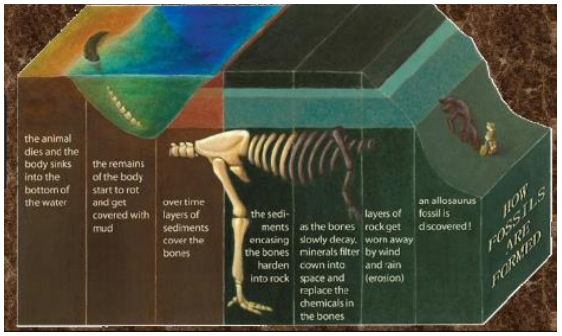
What Can rocks tell us about the Earth?

Facts	
There are three main types of rock	• Sedimentary • Metamorphic • Igneous
Sandy soil	Pale in colour with lots of small air gaps. Water drains through sandy soil easily so it usually feels quite dry.
Clay soil	Orange or blue-ish sticky soil with very few air gaps. Water does not drain through it easily.
Chalky soil	Light brown soil. Water drains through it quickly.
Fossils	• The sediment surrounding the skeleton thickens and begins to turn to stone. • The skeleton dissolves and a mould is formed. • Minerals crystallise inside the mould and a cast is formed. • The fossil is exposed on the Earth's surface.

This diagram shows how fossils are formed:



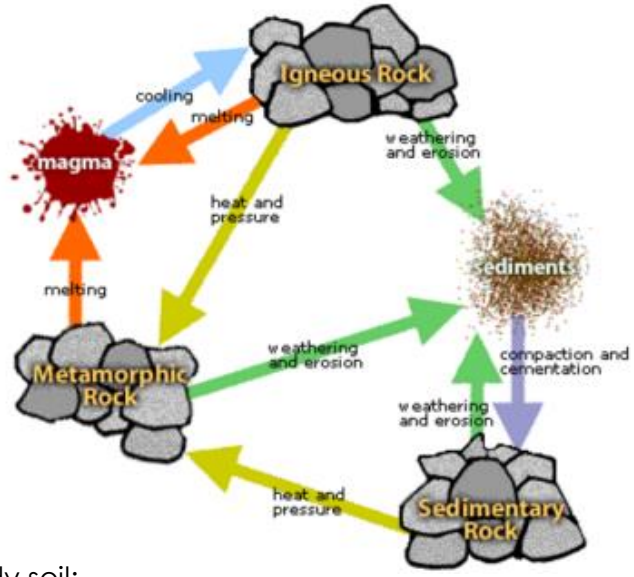
Key Diagrams

Sedimentary

Metamorphic

Igneous

This diagram shows how rocks are formed:



Sandy soil:

Clay soil:

Chalky soil:

Vocabulary	
Sedimentary	Sedimentary rocks are formed from particles of sand, shells, pebbles, and other fragments of material. Together, all these particles are called sediment. Gradually, the sediment accumulates into layers and over a long period of time hardens into rock.
Metamorphic	Metamorphic rocks are formed under the surface of the earth from the metamorphosis (change) that occurs due to intense heat and pressure (squeezing).
Igneous	Igneous rock is formed when magma cools and solidifies, it may do this above or below the Earth's surface.
soil	Minerals (small stone fragments: clay, silt or sand). Organic Matter (decaying plants and animals)
Erosion	The gradual wearing away of something.
Magma	Hot fluid below or within the earth's crust from which lava and other igneous rock is formed on cooling.
Fossil	Skeleton settles on the sea floor and is buried by sediment.