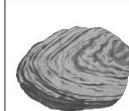
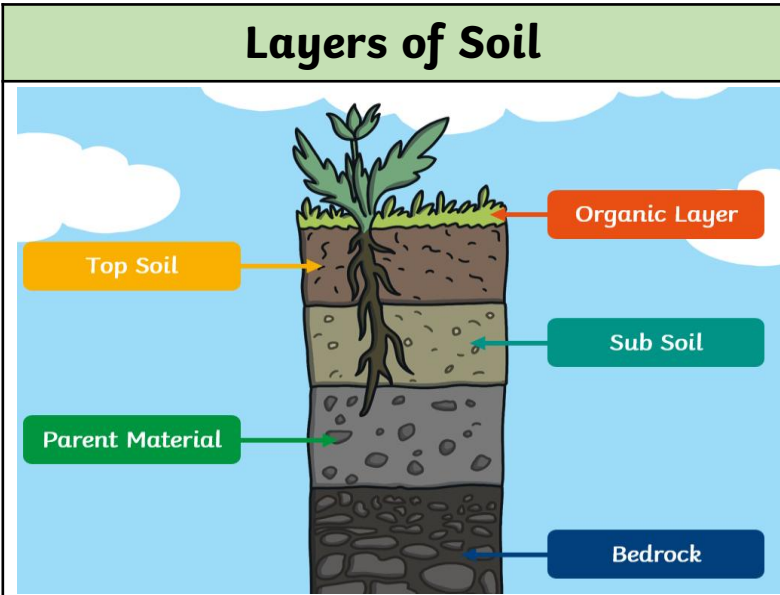


How do rocks, fossils and soils help us understand the Earth's past?

VOCABULARY	
Rock	A solid material found on Earth, made from minerals.
Soil	A mixture of tiny bits of rock, water, air and dead plants and animals.
Fossil	The preserved remains or impressions of plants or animals that lived long ago.
Texture	How something feels when you touch it (smooth, rough, bumpy, grainy).
Grain	Tiny pieces that make up a rock; some rocks have large grains; others have small ones.
Absorb	To soak up liquid (like water).

Different Rocks				
 obsidian	 conglomerate	 shale	 granite	 gneiss
 sandstone	 quartzite	 pumice	 schist	 basalt
 siltstone	 marble	 anthracite	 breccia	 gabbro

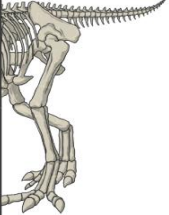


Science

Mary Anning



Mary Anning was a famous fossil hunter from Lyme Regis. She discovered amazing fossils like ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs, which helped scientists learn about animals that lived millions of years ago. Even though she had little schooling, her careful observations changed science and made her one of the most important fossil finders in history.

How Fossils are Formed						
	An animal dies. Some parts of the body decay and, usually, only the skeleton is left.	The skeleton is covered with sand, earth, rock or seabed before the bones can disappear.	Over a very long time, the bones break down and leave a space in the earth, like an empty mold.	Minerals slowly fill the space in layers, in the exact shape of the bones.	Under lots of pressure, the new minerals harden into rock.	The earth is eroded away by the weather or the sea. The rock fossil is exposed and discovered.
						

What I will know at the end of the unit.

I will know how to sort and compare different rocks by looking at their colour, texture and hardness.	
I will know that rocks can be grouped into types such as igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic.	
I will know how fossils are made when plants or animals are trapped in mud and rock for a very long time.	
I will know that fossils teach us about animals and plants that lived long ago.	
I will know that soil is made from tiny pieces of rock, air, water and organic matter (dead plants and animals).	