

Remember
in Year 2,
we learned:

Identify
the use of
everyday
materials

Year 3

Rocks

Later, in
Year 6, you
will learn:

Fossils tell
us about
our world
millions of
years ago

Knowledge

By the end of this unit of study, pupils will be able to:

One	Compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties.	
Two	Describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock.	
Three	Recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter.	



Key Learning

Rock is a naturally occurring material. There are different types of rock e.g. sandstone, limestone, slate etc. which have different properties. Rocks can be hard or soft. They have different sizes of grain or crystal. They may absorb water.

Rocks can be different shapes and sizes (stones, pebbles, boulders). Soils are made up of pieces of ground down rock which may be mixed with plant and animal material (organic matter). The type of rock, size of rock pieces and the amount of organic matter affect the property of the soil.

Some rocks contain fossils. Fossils were formed millions of years ago. When plants and animals died, they fell to the seabed. They became covered and squashed by other material. Over time the dissolving animal and plant matter is replaced by minerals from the water.

Key Vocabulary

rock, stone, pebble, boulder, grain, crystals, layers, hard, soft, texture, absorb water, fossil, bone, flesh, minerals, marble, chalk, granite, sandstone, slate, soil, types of soil (e.g. peaty, sandy, chalk, clay)