



Y3 Science – Rocks and Fossils

Rocks

Rocks are made up of minerals. They can be hard like granite or soft like chalk. There are three types of rocks.

Igneous Rocks: These are formed when lava cools down. If this happens quickly outside of the earth they are called Extrusive Igneous Rocks. When magma leaks into the earth and cools down slowly they are called Intrusive Igneous Rocks



Sedimentary Rocks: These form in layers when little bits of rock or the shells or bones of dead creatures sink into the seabed.



Metamorphic Rocks: When igneous or sedimentary rocks are under pressure and are heated they change to form new metamorphic rocks.



Fossils

Fossils are the remains or traces of plants and animals that lived in the prehistoric era. A lot of fossils are found underwater and you can often see the outline of a skeleton.



Vocabulary

Sediment	Materials that settle to the bottom of a liquid
Igneous	Rocks that are formed when lava cools creating a crystal structure
Metamorphic	Rocks formed when other rocks are affected by great temperature and pressure
Sedimentary	Rocks formed by layers of sediment collecting and solidifying. These rocks have lots of layers.
Fossil	The remains or traces of prehistoric plants and animals embedded in rock
Organic Matter	Something that has come from a recently living plant or creature.
Bedrock	The hard, solid rock beneath materials such as soil and gravel.
Permeable	A material that has holes which allow liquids or gases to pass through.
Minerals	Substances that form naturally in the earth.

Soil

Soil is a mixture of tiny particles of rock, dead plants and animals, air and water.

Different soils have different properties depending on what they are made up of.





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