

Year 3 - Rocks and soils

Key Vocabulary

Organic matter	Rotting plant and animal material.
Granite	A very hard kind of igneous rock.
Slate	Metamorphic rock used to make roof tiles.
Minerals	Natural chemical substances that do not come from animals or plants. Minerals are the building blocks of rocks.
Fossil	the preserved remains of a once-living plant or animal.
Sandstone	Sedimentary rock made up of sand.
Lava	Liquid rock erupted from a volcano.
Magma	Hot liquid rock under the Earth's surface.
Soil	The loose upper layer of the Earth's surface where plants grow.

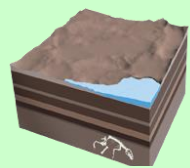
Did you know?

Soils are made up of pieces of ground down rock which may be mixed with organic matter.

Some rocks contain fossils.



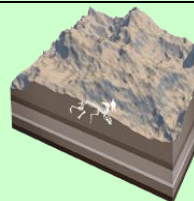
An animal is buried by sediments, such as volcanic ash or silt, shortly after it dies.



More sediment layers cover the animal's remains, and minerals, slowly, replace the bones.



Movement of the Earth's surface, lifts the sediments and pushes the fossil closer to the surface.



Erosion from rain, rivers, and wind wears away the remaining rock layers.

Different types of rocks

Sandstone



Sedimentary rocks

are formed over millions of years when sediments are pressed together at the bottom of seas and rivers. Some sedimentary rocks contain fossils.

Slate



Metamorphic rocks

are formed when other rocks are changed due to heat or pressure.

Granite



Igneous rocks

are formed when magma or lava from volcanoes cools. Most igneous rock is very hard.