






Rocks and Soil

Key Vocabulary

rock	A solid mass made up of minerals.
stone	A solid mass of minerals like a rock.
pebble	A small, rounded stone.
soil	Substance on surface of the earth
boulder	A large, rounded piece of rock.
grain	A tiny hard piece of sand or salt.
crystals	Quartz that is colourless or clear.
texture	How something feels when touched.
absorb	Soak up or take in something.
porous	It lets water through.
peat	Dark coloured material that is the remains of plants.

Types of Rocks

	Marble A type of limestone that can be polished
	Chalk A soft, light coloured rock
	Granite A very hard rock used in buildings and statues
	sandstone A sedimentary rock made of compacted sand
	slate A blueish grey rock that splits into layers

Fossils: A fossil is the preserved remains of something that was once living. The process in which fossils are formed is called fossilisation. Most living things don't become fossilized—it takes special conditions!

1. After an animal dies, the soft parts of the body rot away leaving just the hard things, like teeth and bones.
2. The remains are buried by sediment.
3. As more layers of sediment build on top, the sediment around the remains begins to harden into rock.
4. Water seeps through, dissolving the bones. Minerals replace them, creating a rock replica of the bone called a fossil!



Soil:

Soil is a combination of different materials, including ground up pieces of rock, particles from dead plants and animals, air, and water. These mix together to create different soil types:

Sandy soil is dry soil with lots of air found in it.

Clay soil is sticky and doesn't have much air in it. It often contains a lot of water.

Loam soil is somewhere between the two - it has some water in it as well as some air. It is the best type of soil to grow plants in.

