

Rocks

Curriculum Links:

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

Key Facts:

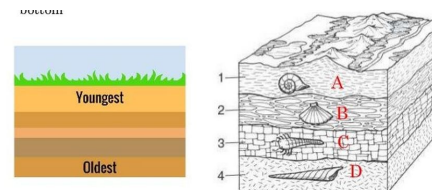
- There are three types of rocks which are formed naturally
- **Igneous:** When molten magma cools, igneous rocks are formed. This either cools and forms under the earth's surface or flows out of erupting volcanoes as lava. This type of rock is strong, hard-wearing and non-porous. Examples are granite and basalt
- **Sedimentary:** Over millions of years layers of sediment builds up at the bottom of lakes, seas and rivers to form sedimentary rocks. They are porous and can easily be worn down. Examples are limestone and chalk
- **Metamorphic:** When some igneous rocks and sedimentary rocks are heated and pressure is applied, they form metamorphic rocks. Metamorphic rocks are strong. Examples include slate and marble
- Fossils are remains of prehistoric life. They are formed when a living thing dies and the body is buried by sediment over thousands of years

Possible experiences:

- Explore rocks in the local environment
- Research living things whose fossils are found
- Compare types of soil
- Maidstone museum workshop and loan box

We should already know:

- Soil contains nutrients and these help plants grow
- Some materials are used for certain purposes because of their properties
- The meaning of absorb



Key Vocabulary

Absorb	To soak up or take in
Decaying	To gradually be destroyed by a natural process
Grain	A small, hard piece of something
Igneous	Rocks formed by volcanic activity or intense heat
Imprint	A mark made by pressure of one object on another
Magma	Molten rock formed in very hot conditions inside the Earth
Metamorphic	Rock that had had their original structure changed by pressure and heat
Mineral	Something formed naturally in rocks and the Earth
Palaeontology	The study of fossils
Permeable	A substance which water or gas can soak into
Porous	Has small holes which water and air can pass through
Pressure	Force produced when you press hard on something
Rock	A solid mass of minerals
Sediment	Solid material which settles at the bottom of liquid
Soil	The substance on the surface of the Earth which plants grow on