

Key Vocabulary	
Igneous Rock	Rock that has been formed from magma or lava.
Sedimentary Rock	Rock that has been formed by layers of sediment being pressed down hard and sticking together. You can see the layers of sediment in the rock.
Metamorphic Rock	Rock that started out as igneous or sedimentary rock but changed due to being exposed to extreme heat or pressure.
Magma	Molten rock that remains underground.
Lava	Molten rock that comes out of the ground is called lava.
Sediment	Natural solid material that is moved and dropped off in a new place by water or wind e.g. sand.
Permeable	Allows liquids to pass through it.
Impermeable	Does not allow liquids to pass through it.
Grains	They are rounded like a grain of sand or jagged like a broken rock.
Crystals	As magma cools crystals form in rock
Fossilisation	The process by which fossils are made.
Erosion	When water, wind or ice wears away land.

Sedimentary Rocks

Chalk, sandstone and limestone are soft rocks and wear away easily. Sedimentary rocks let water soak through them. They are called permeable rocks.

Igneous Rocks

Some rocks (like igneous rocks) are harder than others. Granite is an igneous rock. As it is very hard it makes a good material for building as it doesn't wear away easily.

Igneous rocks do not let water soak through them and are called impermeable rocks.

Metamorphic Rocks

Marble is a hard rock. It has an attractive texture and colour and it can be cut and polished. Because of this, it is used to make floor tiles and wall tiles.

Slate is another metamorphic rock. Slate also splits easily into thin sheets. This makes it ideal for making roof tiles.

Metamorphic rocks do not let water soak through them and are called impermeable rocks.

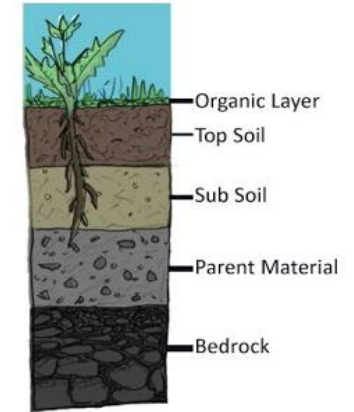
Soil

Soil is the uppermost layer of the Earth. It is made up of a mixture of things:

*Minerals (come from finely broken down rock)

*Air

*Water



Fossilisation

A fossil is the preserved remains or traces of a dead organism. The process by which a fossil is formed is called **fossilisation**. It's very rare for living things to become fossilised. Usually after most animals die their bodies just rot away and nothing is left behind. However, under certain special conditions, a fossil can form.

After an animal dies, the soft parts of its body **decompose** leaving the hard parts, like the skeleton, behind. This becomes buried by small particles of rock called **sediment**. As more layers of sediment build up on top, the sediment around the skeleton begins to compact and turn to rock. The bones then start to be dissolved by water seeping through the rock. Minerals in the water replace the bone, leaving a **rock replica** of the original bone called a fossil.



