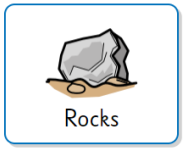
Rocks and Soil Knowledge Organiser

Rocks

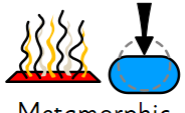


Rocks are natural and not man-made.
There are different types of rocks and the type depends on what they are made from and how the rock was made.
Because of this, each type of rock has different properties and uses.





Sedimentary rocks are made up of tiny broken pieces of rocks, crystals or minerals that have been squeezed together over a long time. Examples include sandstone, limestone and chalk.



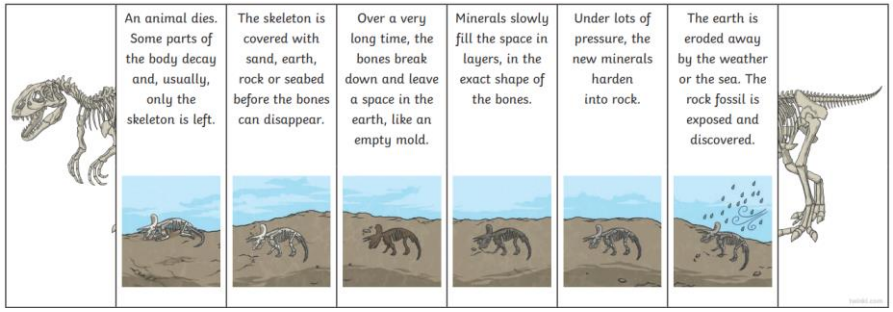
Metamorphic rock starts out as one type of rock, but it then changes into another due to intense heat or pressure. Examples include marble and slate.



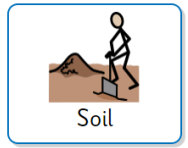
Igneous rocks are formed from magma or lava that has cooled down. Examples include basalt, pumice and granite.

Fossils

A fossil is the preserved remains or traces of a dead organism and they are usually found in rocks.
Fossils are formed through a process called fossilisation, which takes many, many years to happen and can only happen if the conditions are just right.



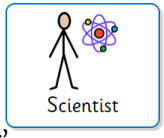
Soil



Soil covers most of the land and is also sometimes called earth, dirt or mud. It is made of rocks and organic matter.
Soil is important because it helps plants to grow by containing the nutrients that the plants need to grow strong and healthy.

	**Chalky soil** is a light brown soil. Water drains through it quickly and it's not great for growing plants.
	**Clay soil** is usually sticky and has small particles. It stays wet for a long time.
	**Peaty soil** does not contain any rock particles. It's made from dead plants and is dark and crumbly.
	**Sandy soil** is pale. There are lots of small air gaps so sandy soil usually feels dry.
	**Silty soil** has smaller particles than sand and can hold more water. It isn't as wet and sticky as clay soil.
	**Loamy soil** is a mixture of sand, silt and clay soils. Plants grow well here.

Mary Anning







She was born in May 1799.
Mary would spend her time searching the beach looking for what she called 'curiosities'.
Later in her life, she realised they were actually fossils.
She was famous for finding fossils.
She lived by the sea in the town of Lyme Regis in Dorset.
Mary was the first person to find a whole Ichthyosaurus skeleton.