



Key Knowledge

Rocks are solid objects that are made up of one or more minerals.

3 main types of rock formation:

sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic.

Different rocks can be identified by their properties, e.g. **colour, texture, hardness and permeability.**

Rocks uses: slate for roofs, marble as floor tiles, chalk in schools, toothpaste and polish and granite for buildings, paving stones and bridges.

Soil = broken rock, mixed with dead and decaying plants and animals (humus) as well as water and air.

Fossils are the prehistoric remains of plants or animals that have been preserved.

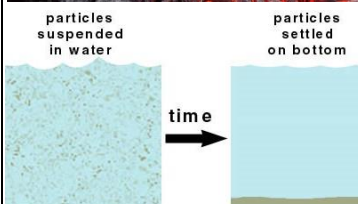
Fossils are usually formed by being buried under layers of mud or sand which are then changed into sedimentary rock.

Fossils can also be made when animals and plants are frozen in ice or become stuck in tree resin that hardens to form amber.

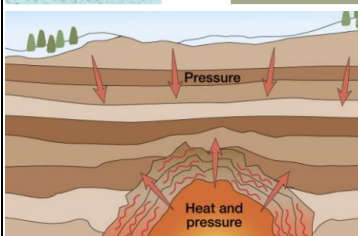
Diagrams



igneous rock formation



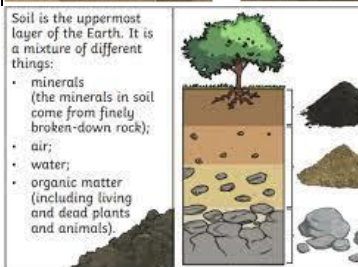
sedimentary rock formation



metamorphic rock formation



fossilisation



Soil components

Vocabulary

mineral	a natural substance that makes up rock
rock	made from one or more minerals
permeable	allows water to pass through
impermeable	does not allow water to pass through
crystals	rock that has formed into a pattern of three-dimensional shapes, e.g. cubes
magma	hot liquid rock
sediment	small bits of rock
sedimentary	rock made from sediment
humus	part of soil made from dead plants and animals – gives soil a dark colour
fossil	the prehistoric remains of a plant or animal
extinct	when there are no more of a particular animal or plant species alive anywhere in the world – they have died out
palaeontology	the study of plants and animals that lived millions of years ago
palaeontologists	scientists who study the remains of plants and animals that lived millions of years ago
granite	a kind of igneous rock which is very hard and light-coloured
igneous	rock formed from magma
metamorphic	rock that has been changed by heat or pressure
soil	small particles of rock mixed with decayed plant and animal material