

Key Vocabulary

decay	To rot or decompose
erosion	When water and wind wear away rocks and soils.
geologist	A person who studies rocks.
permeable	Allows liquid to pass through it. Something that does not allow water to pass through is impermeable.
rock	made up of grains that are packed together
Mineral	solid chemical substances that occur naturally
fossil	the remains or impressions of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock
magma	Liquid rock inside a volcano
lava	liquid rock which flows out of a volcano (ranges from 700 to 1200 degrees centigrade)
sediment	- dead animals, plants or pieces of rock that settles to the bottom of a liquid.

Soil

Soil is a mixture of tiny particles of rock, dead plants and animals, air and water. Different soils have different properties depending on their composition.

Types of soil

Sandy, clay, chalk and peat.

Rocks and Soils Year 3



There are three types of rock.

Igneous rocks

Far underground the temperature is so hot, rock melts into a liquid (molten rock). When the liquid is underground it is called magma and it can cool to form igneous rock.

Sedimentary rocks

These rocks form under the sea. Rocks are broken into small pieces by wind and water (erosion). They settle as mud, sand, minerals and even remains of living things. Over time layers build up and the pressure turns this sediment into rock

Metamorphic rocks

These are formed under the surface of the earth from the change (metamorphosis) that occurs under the intense heat and pressure (squeezing)

Fossils

Fossils are the preserved remains or traces of a dead organism. They provide evidence for how living things and the environment have changed over time. Fossils have been found in rocks of all ages, stretching back billions of years. However, most of the species found in the fossil record have died out or become extinct.



Layers of Soil

