



What are the main types of rocks?

Igneous

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.



Metamorphic

Metamorphic rocks are formed under the surface of the earth from the change (**metamorphosis**) that occurs under the **intense heat** and **pressure** (squeezing).

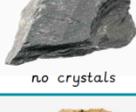


Sedimentary

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.

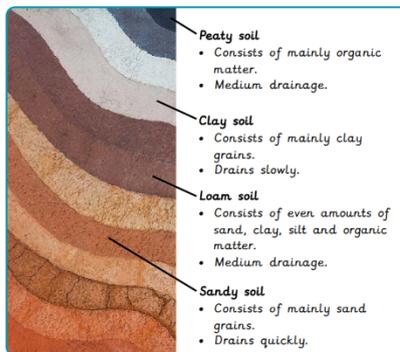


Rocks

Rock type	Appearance	Physical properties
granite	 crystals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> impermeable no reaction to acid hard
marble	 crystals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> impermeable reacts to acid medium
chalk	 no crystals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> permeable reacts to acid soft
slate	 no crystals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> impermeable some react to acid medium
sandstone	 no crystals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> permeable some react to acid soft

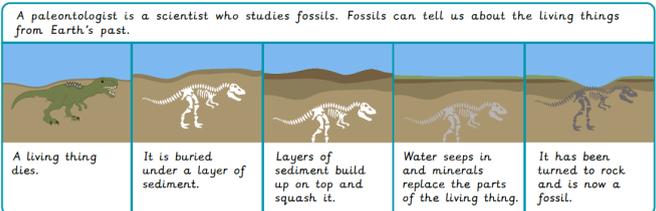
What is soil made from?

Soil is made from grains of sediment, organic matter, water and air. Soil contains different sized grains of sediment:



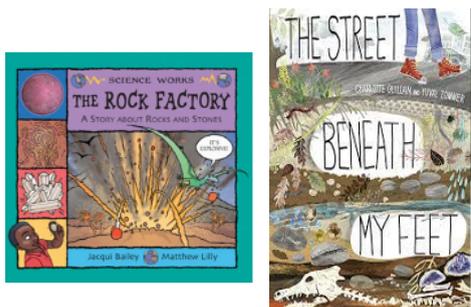
- Clay (smallest)
- Silt (medium)
- Sand (largest)

Rocks can be broken down into small pieces called sediment by forces of nature like wind, rain, rivers, animals and plants.



Fossils are the remains of a prehistoric plants or animals which are embedded in rocks. They can be found in places such as in mud, sand, under ancient seas, lakes and rivers.

Read all about it! Can you find these books in your local library?



Key Vocabulary

Crystal, fossil, grain, hard, hardness, rock, sediment, sedimentary rock, sedimentation, soft, soil, absorbent, bone, clay, earthworm, impermeable, permeable, mineral, igneous rock.

Scientific enquiry types

