

Years 2 and 3 Science Knowledge Organiser: Rocks and Soils

Key Vocabulary

compact – to press something together to make it more solid

decay – gradually destroyed naturally

fossil – the remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal pressed into a rock

lava – liquid rock flowing out of a volcano

magma – liquid rock inside a volcano

minerals – solid substances that occur naturally for example diamond, quartz, gypsum

preserved – protected from damage or decay

sediment – grains of minerals and rocks which can be moved by wind, air and rain

soil – a mixture of tiny pieces of rock, dead animals and plants as well as air and water

substance – the material that something is made from

Man made rocks

Created by people rather than formed from a naturally occurring process. Often used for buildings and structures.

Examples:

brick and concrete

Natural rocks

Igneous

Formed when a volcano erupts lava which then cools and hardens after it reaches the Earth's surface.

Examples:

basalt and granite

Sedimentary

Formed over many years – possibly millions – when sediment is compacted and becoming hard.

Examples:

limestone and sandstone

Metamorphic

Formed by intense heat and pressure. They are generally found in the Earth's crust. They are often made from other types of rock.

Examples:

marble and slate

Fossils

Fossils are preserved remains of plants or animals. For such remains to be considered fossils, scientists have decided that they have to be over 10,000 years old.

There are 2 types of fossils:

- Body fossils - preserved remains of a plant or animal's body.
- Trace fossils are the remains of the activity of an animal, such as preserved trackways, footprints, fossilized egg shells, and nests.

Soils

Soils are complex mixtures of minerals, water, air, organic matter and countless organisms that are the decaying remains of once-living things. It forms at the surface of land in layers – it is the 'skin of the earth'. Soil is capable of supporting plant life and is vital to life on Earth.

There are different textures: clay, silt and sand.

