

# Rocks, Soils and Fossils

Rocks, Soils and Fossils – Knowledge Organiser Year 3 Spring 1				
VOCABULARY		How are rocks formed?		
geologist	A scientist who studies the surface of the Earth, especially rocks.	Granite		Igneous
molten	Melted; in liquid form.	Limestone		Sedimentary
magma	Molten rock stored below the Earth's surface.	Chalk		Sedimentary
lava	Molten rock once it has reached the Earth's surface.	Sandstone		Sedimentary
erosion	The gradual destruction and removal of rock or soil by rivers, the sea or the weather.	Slate		Metamorphic
sediment	Solid 'bits' of material, especially soil and pieces of rock, that have been carried along by water, ice or wind and then left (deposited) somewhere.	Marble		Metamorphic
fossils	The remains of animals or plants that have been preserved in rock.	What is soil?		
minerals	Metals or other substances found in nature, especially in rocks.	Soil is made from tiny particles of rocks, organic material (rotting plants and animals), air and water. Living organisms, including worms and micro-organisms, live in the soil and help to keep it healthy.		
micro-organism or microbe	A tiny living thing which you can only see if you use a microscope.	Clay soil is usually sticky and has few air gaps, which means water cannot drain through this soil easily.		
saturated	Soaked; containing the maximum amount of water possible.	Chalky soil is usually light-coloured, stony and allows water to drain quickly.		
organic	Organic substances are produced by or found in living things.	permeable	A property of a material that allows water to pass through.	
		impermeable	A property of a material that prevents water from passing through.	
			Sandy soil is usually pale-coloured with large, grainy particles which means water drains through easily.	

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