



Year 3 Autumn - Why are there different types of rocks?

Key Vocabulary	
Fossil	A fossil is the preserved remains or traces of a dead organism and they are usually found in rocks.
Soil	A mixture of tiny particles of dead, decayed and rotting plants and animals, rock, air and water.
Rock	A solid mass of minerals that have joined together over time. They are natural and not man-made.
Geology	the study of how the Earth is formed and the things that happen to the Earth.
Igneous	Rocks that formed from magma or lava
Metamorphic	Metamorphic rocks start out as one type of rock, but it then changes into another due to intense heat or pressure
Sedimentary	Rocks that are made up of tiny, broken pieces of rocks, crystals or minerals
Permeable	Water can soak into permeable rocks. Sandstone and chalk are permeable rocks.



Igneous rocks are formed when molten (melted) rock cools and solidifies (becomes solid). Molten rock is called 'magma' until it is erupted onto the Earth's surface. Then, it is called 'lava'.



Some metamorphic rocks, like slate, are perfect for building the roofs of homes as it is strong, durable and impermeable (waterproof).

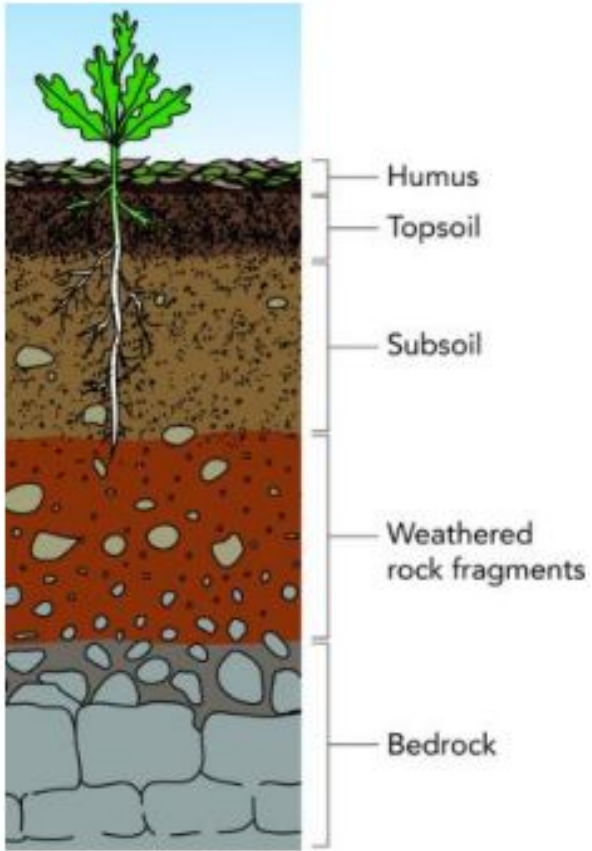


Sedimentary rocks are made up of tiny broken pieces of rocks, crystals or minerals. They can often contain fossils from when they were formed millions of years ago.



Whilst rocks can be strong and durable, they can be eroded by natural elements like weather or the sea. The shale and sand on beaches are formed from much bigger rocks being broken down into small pieces.

Natural Rocks			Human-Made Rocks
Igneous	Sedimentary	Metamorphic	
Obsidian	Chalk	Marble	Brick
Granite	Sandstone	Quartzite	Concrete
Basalt	Limestone	Slate	Coade Stone



There are different types of soils: chalky, loamy, peaty, caly, silty and sandy soil.

