

Rocks and soils

What you should already know from past topics:

Reception – Let's Explore

Reception – Everything Changes

Y2 – Materials

Which topics will this help you with in the future?

Year 3 - Rivers

Year 3 – Europe: Volcanoes and Earthquakes

Year 5 – Properties and changes of materials

Year 6 – Evolution and Inheritance

Key vocabulary

Word	Meaning
Material	The matter from which a thing is or can be made.
Properties	Physical components of an object.
Absorb	Take in or soak up.
Organic matter	Anything that was alive and is now in or on the soil.
Dissolved	A solid that becomes incorporated into a liquid to form a solution.



Rocks and soils

Investigation:

Which soil absorbs the most water? – comparative test

There are different types of rocks which have different properties.

Pumice	Sandstone	Marble	Obsidian
Limestone	Gneiss	Basalt	Slate
Granite	Chalk	Quartzite	Conglomerate

Rocks can be hard or soft. They have different sizes of grain or crystal. They may absorb water. Rocks can be different shapes and sizes (stones, pebbles, boulders).

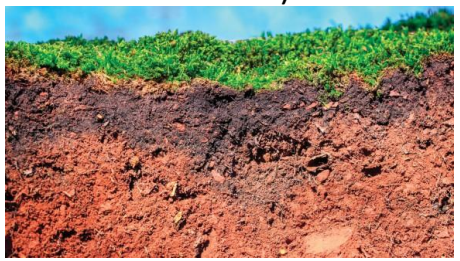
Rocks can be different shapes and sizes.





Chalk is a soft rock.

Soil is a type of rock. soils are made up of pieces of ground down rock which may be mixed with plant and animal material (organic matter).



Granite is a hard rock.





Sandstone absorbs water.

Some rocks contain **fossils**. Fossils were formed millions of years ago. When plants and animals died, they fell to the seabed. They became covered and squashed by other material. Over time the dissolving animal and plant matter is replaced by minerals from the water.



