

Key questions to discuss

What is a rock?
 Are there any similarities/differences between rocks?
 How can rocks be grouped?

Enquiry Question

How can rocks be identified and grouped based on their properties?

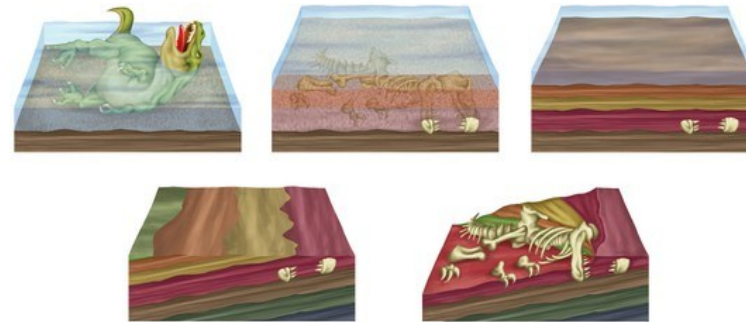
Vocabulary

Rock	A solid mass made up of minerals.
Granite	a hard rock with easy to see crystals
Pumice	a light rock with small holes
Sandstone	a pale-coloured rock with grains
Chalk	a soft white rock
Marble	a white rock with crystals
Texture	what something looks and feels like
Absorb	soak up or take in something.
Porous	it lets water through.
Peat	dark coloured material that is the remains of plants.
Hardness	a measure of a rock's resistance to scratching
Brittle	easily broken
Weathering	the breaking down of rocks over time

Fossil Formation

A fossil is the preserved remains of something that was once living. The process in which fossils are formed is called fossilisation. Most living things don't become fossilized—it takes special conditions!

1. After an animal dies, the soft parts of the body rot away leaving just the hard things, like teeth and bones.
2. The remains are buried by sediment.
3. As more layers of sediment build on top, the sediment around the remains begins to harden into rock.
4. Water seeps through, dissolving the bones. Minerals replace them, creating a rock replica of the bone called a fossil!



Soil

Soil is a combination of different materials, including ground up pieces of rock, particles from dead plants and animals, air, and water. These mix together to create different soil types:

- Sandy soil is dry soil with lots of air found in it.
- Clay soil is sticky and doesn't have much air in it. It often contains a lot of water.
- Loam soil is somewhere between the two - it has some water in it as well as some air. It is the best type of soil to grow plants in.
- Peat soil - a soil that contains lots of water and organic matter

