

Knowledge Organiser Science Year 3

Rocks

Soils

The property of soils is affected by the:
 type of rock
 size of rock pieces
 amount of organic matter in it.

Peat



- water-logged
- contains partially decomposed plant material
- soft and easily compressed

Sandy soil



- light and dry
- ots of air gaps so water drains through quickly

Chalky soil



- stony and water drains through quickly
- found in areas with lots of chalk

Clay soil



- very sticky when wet
- a heavy soil
- water does not drain through it quickly

Describing rocks

hard/soft
 texture
 grains



crystals
 layers
 absorb water

Key Vocabulary

rock	A naturally occurring material made of minerals. They can be different sizes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stones • pebbles • boulders
fossil	The bones or other remains of living things are sometimes preserved in rocks as fossils.
soil	Ground up rock mixed with plant and animal remains.

Fossil formation

Fossils were formed millions of years ago.	
1 Plants and animals died and sank to the seabed.	Animal fossil 
2 The soft parts decayed away leaving the hard parts.	Plant fossil 
3 The hard parts were covered and squashed by many layers of sand and other materials.	
4 The animal/plant matter dissolves and is replaced by minerals, leaving a replica of the original bone called a fossil.	

Types of Rock

Sedimentary

sandstone



limestone



chalk



Chalk is used for drawing because it is crumbly and soft.

Metamorphic

quartzite



slate



marble



Marble is good for gravestones because it does not rub away.

Igneous

basalt



pumice



granite



Granite is good for worktops because it is hard and does not absorb water.