

Year 3 Science – Rocks What do rocks tell us about the way the Earth was formed?

Key Knowledge	Key Skills	Vocabulary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To know the differences between sedimentary and igneous rocks. To describe how fossils are formed and what fossils are. To know some of the physical properties of rocks. To explain how different rocks can be useful to us. 	<p>Children to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make and record a prediction before testing. Make accurate measurements using standard units. Record their observations in different ways (labelled diagrams, charts etc.) Describe what they have found using scientific words. 	fossil	A fossil is the preserved remains or traces of a dead organism.
		soil	Soil consists of a mix of organic material (decayed plants and animals) and broken bits of rocks and minerals.
		crystals	Crystals are a special kind of solid material where the molecules fit together in a repeating pattern.
		sedimentary	Sedimentary rocks are made when sand, mud and pebbles get laid down in layers. Over time, these layers are squashed under more and more layers.
		metamorphic	When a rock experiences heat and pressure, it becomes metamorphic rock. All metamorphic rocks start as another type of rock.
		igneous	Igneous rock is formed when magma cools and solidifies, it may do this above or below the Earth's surface.
		gemstone	A piece of mineral crystal which is cut and highly polished.
		birthstone	A birthstone is a gemstone that represents a person's month of birth.
		slate	Grey or bluish-purple metamorphic rock easily split into smooth, flat plates. Used for writing on in schools.
		diamond	A precious stone consisting of a clear and colourless crystalline form of pure carbon, the hardest naturally occurring substance.

Interesting information about rocks



- Rocks have been used by humans for millions of years, from early tools and weapons through to various construction materials.
- Sediment deposited over time, often as layers at the bottom of lakes and oceans, forms sedimentary rocks.
- Extreme pressure and heat over time forms metamorphic rocks. Examples are marble and slate.
- When magma cools and solidifies it forms igneous rock. Examples are granite and pumice.

