

Year 3: Rocks

Fossils:

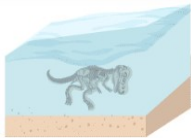


A fossil is the preserved remains or traces of a dead organism. The process by which a fossil is formed is called **fossilisation**.

After an animal dies, the soft parts of its body **decompose** leaving the hard parts, like the skeleton, behind. This becomes buried by small particles of rock called **sediment**.



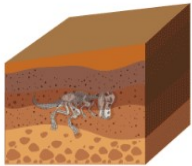
The dinosaur dies in a river.



The body is covered with sediment. The meat decomposes. The dinosaur becomes a fossil.



The sediments become rock. The skeleton is pressed.



The earth's movements raise the layers of the rocks to the surface.



The rock erodes exposing the fossil.

Describing rocks:

hard/soft

texture

grains

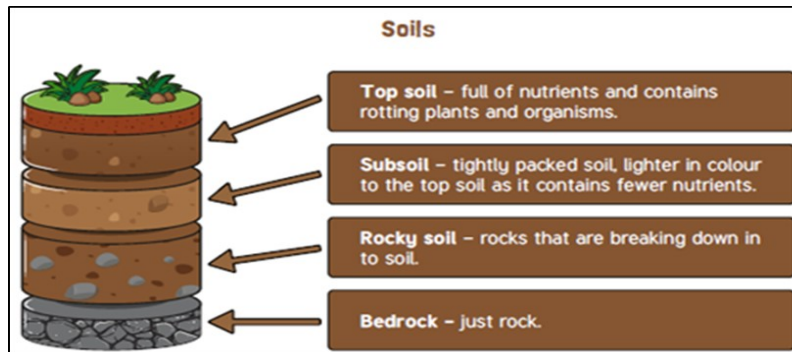


crystals

layers

absorb water

What is soil?



Soil is a mixture of tiny particles of rock, dead plants and animals, air and water. Different soils have different properties depending on their composition. Sandy soil is pale coloured and has large particles. Clay soil is usually sticky and has small particles.

Types of rock:



Granite



Marble



Chalk



Slate



Basalt



Sandstone

KEY VOCABULARY



ROCK: A solid collection of mineral that are joined together.



FOSSIL: The remains or impressions of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock.



IGNEOUS: Rock formed when hot, molten rock cools and solidifies.



METAMORPHIC: Rock that has been changed under heat and pressure.



SEDIMENTARY: Rock formed from the build up of sediment at the bottom of rivers or oceans.



GEOLOGIST: A scientist who studies soil, rocks and minerals.

Mary Anning:



Mary Anning was an English fossil collector, dealer and palaeontologist who became known around the world for the fossils she found on the Jurassic coast.