

Key Vocabulary

rock stone pebble boulder grain crystals layers hard soft texture absorb water soil fossil
marble chalk granite sandstone slate soil peat sandy/chalk/clay soil

Rock is a naturally occurring material.

There are different types of rock e.g. sandstone, limestone, slate etc. which have different **properties**.

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).

Can I compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties?

Here are some rock types...

rock	the solid mineral material forming part of the surface of the earth
boulder	a large rock
grains	a small hard particle of a substance such as salt or sand
crystals	a piece of solid substance which has a natural geometrically regular form
fossil	the remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock
soil	upper layer of earth in which plants grow
peat	a damp, dark soil that is made of organic matter that hasn't decayed properly
marble	a type of limestone, typically white with coloured mottling or streaks
granite	a very hard, granular, crystalline rock
sandstone	a rock consisting of sand grains cemented together, typically red, yellow, or brown in colour
slate	a fine-grained grey, green, or bluish-purple rock easily split into smooth, flat plates
chalk	a white, soft, powdery limestone rock

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

Some rocks contain **fossils**.

Fossils were formed millions of years ago.

Can I describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock?

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.



Soils are made up of pieces of ground down rock which may be mixed with **plant** and **animal material** (**organic matter**).

The type of rock, size of rock pieces and the amount of organic matter affect the property of the soil.

Can I recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter?

Soil is the uppermost layer of the Earth. It is a mixture of different things:

- minerals (the minerals in soil come from finely broken-down rock);
- air;
- water;
- organic matter (including living and dead plants and animals).

