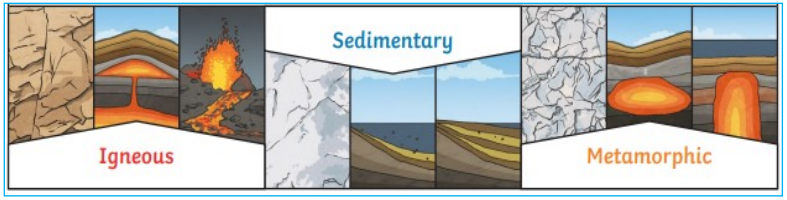
Rocks - Year 3

Prior learning:

In Year 1, you distinguished between an object and the material from which it is made and identified and named a variety of every-day materials. You described the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials and compared and grouped together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties. In Year 2, you identified and compared the suitability of a variety of everyday materials. You describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of dif-



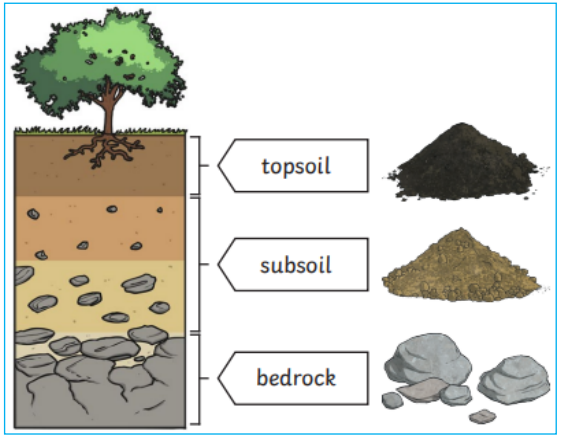
There are three types of naturally occurring rock; igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. Some rocks are human-made.

Natural Rocks			Human-Made Rocks
Igneous	Sedimentary	Metamorphic	
Obsidian	Chalk	Marble	Brick
Granite	Sandstone	Quartzite	Concrete
Basalt	Limestone	Slate	Coade Stone

Future learning:

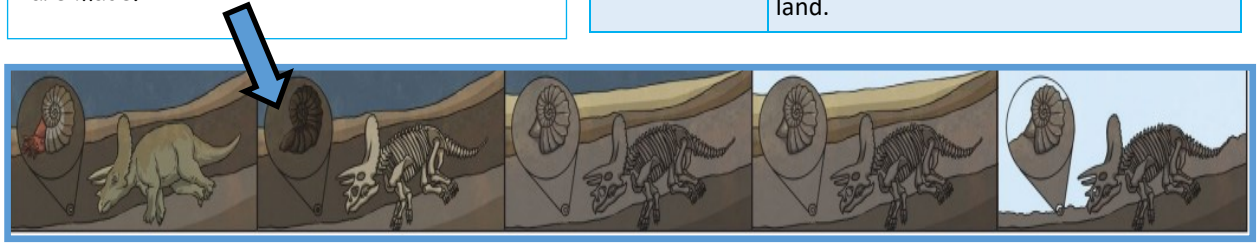
In Year 6, you will learn more about the process of how fossils are formed.

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).



Some words we can use to describe the properties of rocks: hard, soft, permeable, impermeable, durable (meaning resistant to weathering), high density, low density. Density measures how 'bulky' the rock is (how tightly packed the molecules are).

Fossilisation is the process by which fossils are made.



Key vocabulary	Definitions
igneous	Rock that has been formed from magma or lava.
sedimentary	Rock that has been formed by layers of sediment being pressed down hard and sticking together. You can see the layers of sediment in the rock.
metamorphic	Rock that started out as igneous or sedimentary rock but changed due to being exposed to extreme heat or pressure.
magma	Molten rock that remains underground.
lava	Molten rock that comes out of the ground is called lava.
sediment	Natural solid material that is moved and dropped off in a new place by water or wind, e.g. sand.
permeable	Allows liquids to pass through it.
impermeable	Does not allow liquids to pass through it.
fossilisation	The process by which fossils are made.
palaeontology	The study of fossils.
erosion	When water, wind or ice wears away land.