

Core Knowledge—Rocks

Rock is a naturally occurring material and there are many different types.

Rocks can be grouped by their different properties. They 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).



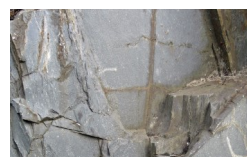
marble



sandstone



chalk



slate

Core Knowledge –Fossils

Some rocks contain fossils which were formed millions of years ago. A fossil is the remains or the impression left by a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock.

When plants and animals died, they fell to the sea bed.

Over time, they became covered and squashed by more layers of material.

The plants and animals dissolved over time and were replaced by minerals from the water.

Over a long period, the sea may recede (go back) leaving the rock exposed to the weather so the fossils can be found.



Scientific Enquiry

Key Vocabulary

Vocabulary	Definition
absorbent	Able to soak up a liquid easily.
grain	A very small, hard piece of solid material. E.g. grain of sand
layers	A thickness of something that is spread over the surface.
minerals	A piece of natural, non living, solid that often comes from broken down rocks.
texture	How something feels. E.g. rough, smooth, hard, soft.

Core Knowledge—Soil

Soils are made up of pieces of ground down rock and organic matter.

Organic matter is living and dead animals and plants.

Air and water fill the gaps between the particles of soil.

The type of rock, size of rock pieces and the amount of organic matter affect the property of the soil. Examples are peaty, sand, clay.