

Umbrella question

What do rocks and fossils tell us about the Earth's past?

Key Vocabulary

Weathering	Weathering is when rocks and other things outside get broken down into smaller pieces by wind, rain, and sunshine.
Erosion	Erosion happens when wind, water, or ice carry away little pieces of rock and earth to a new place.
Fossilisation	Fossilisation is the process where plants or animals turn into fossils over a very long time, often after being buried under mud or sand.
Body fossil	A body fossil is a part of a living thing, like bones or teeth, that has turned into rock and helps us learn about animals or plants that lived a long time ago.
Trace fossil	A trace fossil shows signs that an animal or plant was there, like footprints or a burrow, but it isn't a part of the living thing itself.
Coprolite	Coprolite is an old piece of poo that has turned into a fossil and can tell us what animals ate a long time ago.
Palaeontology	Palaeontology is the study of fossils and the history of life on Earth, where scientists learn about animals and plants that lived a long time ago.

Hinge questions

What are rocks?

How can I compare rocks?

What is weathering and erosion?

How is a fossil formed?

What is soil?

What is soil permeability?



granite



basalt



sandstone



slate



marble



chalk

Key Learning: Different types of rocks have distinct properties and are formed in different ways. We can compare and group rocks based on characteristics such as hardness, permeability, texture and appearance, and use simple observations and tests to identify and classify rocks. Fossils are formed when plants and animals become trapped within layers of sediment over millions of years, providing evidence of life from the past. Soils are made from weathered rocks and organic matter; they can support plant growth but vary in composition.

Types of Weathering

Biological	Physical	Chemical
Caused by plants or animals.	Caused by wind, water or ice.	Caused by chemicals in air or water.
 	 	

What is soil made of?

organic materials

water

rock fragments

air



chalky



clay-based



loam



peat



sandy



silt

Fossilisation Process.

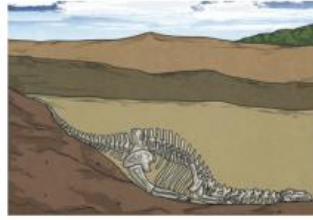
1



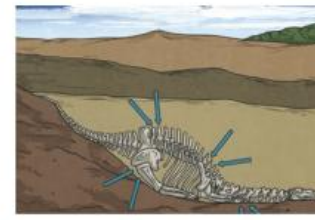
2



3



4



5

