



Dussindale Primary School Knowledge Organiser
Rocks and Soils
Year 3
Autumn 2



Key Learning

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).

Key Vocabulary

rocks	rocks are made up of grains that are packed together.
mineral	Minerals are solid chemical substances that occur naturally - examples include diamond, quartz, gypsum. Each grain that makes up the rock is made from a mineral.
permeable	Allowing water to pass through it, something that does not allow water to pass through is impermeable .
durable	Something that is durable does not wear away easily.
magma	Liquid rock inside a volcano
lava	Liquid rock that flows out of a volcano. Fresh lava glows red hot to white hot when it flows.
Molten rock	A rock that has been reduced to liquid through heating.
fossils	The remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock
soil	Soil is a mixture of tiny particles of rocks, organic matter from animals and plants, as well as air and water

Types of rock and how they are formed

Metamorphic rocks are formed when other rocks are changed due to heat or pressure. Examples include slate and marble.

Igneous rock is formed when magma or lava from volcanoes cools. Examples include basalt and granite. Most igneous rock is very hard.

Sedimentary rocks are formed over millions of years when sediments (tiny pieces of rocks and animal skeletons) are pressed together at the bottom of seas and rivers. Examples include sandstone, coal and chalk. Some sedimentary rocks contain fossils (bones or shells of living things that were buried long ago and have turned to stone).

