



Rocks

Science
Year 3
Autumn Term

Overview

During this topic, we will be discovering different types of rocks and how they are formed. We will compare and group them based on their properties. We will also be learning about fossils and how they are formed.



Knowledge & Understanding

In this unit, the pupils will:

- compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties
- describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock
- recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter.

Enquiry Skills & Concepts

In this unit, the pupils will be:

- asking relevant questions and using different types of scientific enquiries to answer them
- setting up simple practical enquiries, comparative and fair tests
- making observations and taking accurate measurements
- gathering, recording, classifying and presenting data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions
- recording findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts, and tables
- using results to draw simple conclusions, suggest improvements and raise further questions
- identifying differences, similarities or changes related to simple scientific ideas
- using straightforward scientific evidence to answer questions or to support their findings.

Topic Vocabulary

crystals – clear colourless minerals

fossils – the remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock and preserved

igneous – rock that has been solidified from lava or magma

metamorphic – rock that has been changed by extreme heat and pressure

organic – matter that has come from a recently living organism

permeable – allows liquids or gases to pass through it

sedimentary – rock formed from particles

Working Scientifically

classify – to sort things into different groups

conclusion – an opinion reached after careful thinking and observation

evidence – findings and results that answer a question

gather – to collect from different sources and bring together information

identify – to recognise what something is

investigation – to find out the answer to a scientific question using tests and observations

observation – to look closely

prediction – to use prior knowledge to state the outcome

Home – School link project

During this topic pupils can choose to:

- Collect different rocks in your local environment.
- Create a poster of different types of rock and how they are created