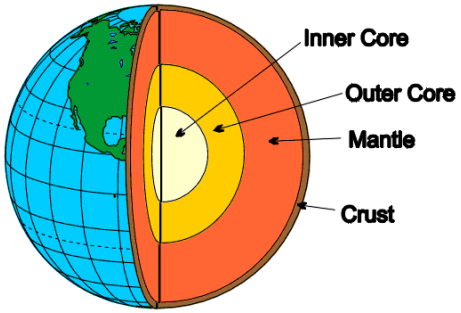
Y3 Rocks and Fossils



Key Learning Objectives:

- 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

How you can help at home:

- Look at different rocks and fossils that the children may have at home and help them to describe them in terms of colour, density and permeability.
- Talk about how we use different rocks in everyday life e.g. slate for roofs, marble for worktops, sandstone for houses.

Key Vocabulary

Word	Definition
metamorphic	**Metamorphic** rocks are formed when other rocks are affected by great temperatures and pressures. They do not melt, but the chemicals they contain may change their forms, or crystal shapes.
igneous	**Igneous** rocks are a word used for rocks that have formed by the cooling and hardening of molten lava or magma.
sedimentary	**Sedimentary** rocks are formed by **sediment** that is deposited over time, usually as layers at the bottom of lakes and oceans. This **sediment** can include minerals, small pieces of organic matter.
fossils	Fossils are the remains or traces of plants and animals that lived long ago. Most fossils are found in earth that once lay underwater.
properties	A **property** is a way of describing how something looks; it's an attribute or characteristic e.g. size, texture, and colour.
dense	The more dense a substance is, the **heavier** it feels for its size.
permeable	A material (like rock) that allows liquid to flow through it
layer	A thickness of material covering a surface. Layers of sedimentary rock are called strata.
crystals	Crystals are a special kind of solid material where the molecules fit together in a repeating pattern