



Year Three and Four		Topic – Rocks and Fossils	Term: Spring 1
Building on Prior Knowledge		Future learning	Key vocabulary
Distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made. (Y1 - Everyday materials) Identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock. (Y1 - Everyday materials) Describe the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials. (Y1 - Everyday materials) Compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties. (Y1 - Everyday materials) Identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses. (Y2 - Uses of everyday materials)		Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago. (Y6 - Evolution and inheritance) The composition of the Earth. (KS3) The structure of the Earth. (KS3) The rock cycle and the formation of igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks. (KS3)	Rock, stone, pebble, boulder, grain, crystals, layers, hard, soft, texture, absorb water, soil, fossil, marble, chalk, granite, sandstone, slate, soil, peat, sandy/chalk/clay soil
Knowledge	Working Scientifically		
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 Recognise that rocks and soils can feel and look different. Recognise that rocks and soils can be different in different places/environments.	Observing rocks, including those used in buildings and gravestones. Exploring how and why they might have changed over time. Using a hand lens or microscope to help them. Identify and classify rocks according to whether they have grains or crystals, and whether they have fossils in them. Research and discuss the different kinds of living things whose fossils are found in sedimentary rock. Explore how fossils are formed. Explore different soils. Identify similarities and differences between them. Investigate what happens when rocks are rubbed together or what changes occur when they are in water. Raise and answer questions about the way soils are formed.		

**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). Soils are made up of pieces of ground down rock which may be mixed with plant and animal material (organic matter). The type of rock, size of rock pieces and the amount of organic matter affect the property of the soil.

Some rocks contain fossils. Fossils were formed millions of years ago. When plants and animals died, they fell to the seabed. They became covered and squashed by other material. Over time the dissolving animal and plant matter is replaced by minerals from the water.