

Year 3: Who is a geologist?

Hard or soft?

By using a nail or sandpaper you can see how hard or soft a rock is.

How can the properties of rocks be described?

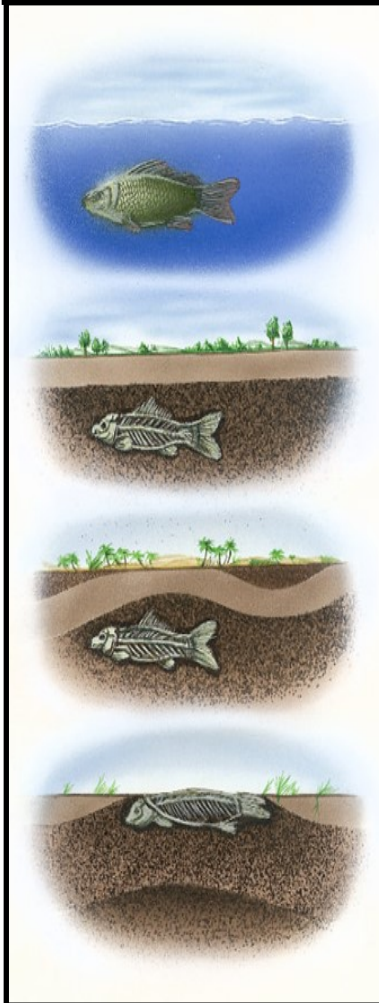
Absorbent or non-absorbent?

Does the rock allow water to soak in?

Shiny or dull?

Has the rock got a smooth or rough texture to it?

How are fossils formed?



1. A living animal or plant dies and settles at the bottom of the river or sea bed. Eventually, only the bones remain.
2. Over thousands of years, mud will form layers above the bones. This mud then turns into rock due to the immense pressure created from the water above.
3. Water is still able to trickle through this rock, and as it does, it slowly washes away the bones. This creates an empty space in the rock known as a mould. As the water passes through the mould it replaces the empty space with rocks, forming a fossil.
4. Eventually, fossils are forced back to the surface.



Soil isn't one material. It is made up of many different materials.

Soil is the uppermost layer of the Earth. It is a mixture of different things:

- minerals (the minerals in soil come from finely broken-down rock);
- air;
- water;
- organic matter (including living and dead plants and animals).



Vocabulary

boulder	A large rock.
crystal	Solids with symmetrical arrangements of faces; usually bright and clear.
fossil	The remains, or impression, of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock.
grain	The smallest form of the rock or crystal.
layers	A thickness of one material on top of another.
pebble	A small stone that has been made smooth by water or wind.
rock	A solid, mineral material forming part of the surface of the Earth.
soil	The top layer of the Earth's surface. Three types of soil are known as: sandy, chalk or clay.
stone	A hard, solid mineral.
texture	How the rock's surface feels (rough or smooth).

Have you ever found an interesting rock outside, and wondered where it came from? Then you were thinking like a **geologist!** A **geologist** is a **scientist** that studies the surface of the Earth and what it's made of.

CRC Article 17:

All children have the right to find out information.

