Science - Rocks and soil



Rocks are formed in different ways and from different mixtures of minerals, other rocks and **organic materials**. This means their appearance and physical properties can vary.







Rock can be broken down into small pieces called **sediment** by forces of nature like wind, rain, rivers, animals and plants.

Soil is made from **grains** of sediment, organic matter, water and air. Soil contains different sized grains of sediment:

- Clay (smallest).
- Silt (medium).
- Sand (largest).

A paleontologist is a scientist who studies fossils. Fossils can tell us about the living things from Earth's past.

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A living thing dies.	It is buried under a layer of sediment.	Layers of sediment build up on top and squash it.	Water seeps in and minerals replace the parts of the living thing.	It has been turned to rock and is now a fossil.



Rock type	Appearance	Physical properties
granite	crystals	 impermeable no reaction to acid hard
marble	crystals	 impermeable reacts to acid medium
chalk	no crystals	 permeable reacts to acid soft
slate	no crystals	 impermeable some react to acid medium
sandstone	no crystals	 permeable some react to acid soft