

Year 3 – Rocks and Soils (Rocks and Soils)		
Links made with	English – Dinosaur cove	
other subjects	Geography – Volcanoes. Coasts and Erosion	
The BIG Question	Are all rocks the same?	
The BIG Outcome	Poster/PowerPoint/pic collage presenting all their learning about rocks with annotations	
Science objectives	- Compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance	
(link to NC)	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.	
Prior knowledge	Children already know:	
What prior knowledge is	EYFS – Understanding the world - Children know about similarities and differences in	
needed for children to be successful in this unit?	relation to places, objects, materials and living things. They talk about the features of	
	their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one	
	another. They make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things	
Future learning	Occur and talk about changes.	
Consider the concentual	This unit gives prior knowledge to:	
knowledge within a		
subject that pupils need		
for future learning not		
the importance of		
concepts		
Science strands	Related Enquiry Questions	
	Classifying	
	- Based on the children's own criteria, classify rocks. (At the beginning of the topic,	
	of the unit )	
	- Look at different soils and discuss how they are similar/different.	
	Observing over time	
	Observe how soil separates into different layers	
	in water – see diagram.	
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	Pattern Seeking	
	Not relevant	
	-Test the hardness of different rocks	
	- Test what happens when rocks are put in water	
	- Test how guickly water runs through different types of soil.	
	Researching	
	- Research how fossils are formed.	



**Science Scheme of Work** 

Vocabulary/	Rock, stone, pebble, boulder, grain, crystals, layers, hard, soft, texture, absorb water,
Glossary	soil, fossil, marble, chalk, granite, sandstone, slate, soil, peat, sandy/chalk/clay soil
Knowledge	The knowledge that children will learn and remember:
(see italics for knowledge	
to remember)	1. Rock is a naturally occurring material.
	2. There are different types of rock e.g. sandstone, limestone, slate etc. which
	have different properties.
	3. Rocks can be hard or soft.
	4. They have different sizes of grain or crystal.
	5. They may absorb water.
	6. Rocks can be different shapes and sizes (stones, pebbles, boulders).
	<ol><li>Soils are made up of pieces of ground down rock which may be mixed with plant and animal material (organic matter).</li></ol>
	8. The type of rock, size of rock pieces and the amount of organic matter affect
	the property of the soil.
	9. Some rocks contain fossils. Fossils were formed millions of years ago.
	10. 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
SEND expectations	1. Rock is a naturally occurring material.
	2. There are different types of rock e.g. sandstone, limestone, slate etc. which
	have different properties.
	3. Rocks can be hard or soft.
	4. They may absorb water.
	5. Rocks can be different shapes and sizes (stones, pebbles, boulders).
	6. Soils are made up of pieces of ground down rock which may be mixed with plant
	and animal material (organic matter).
	7. Some rocks contain fossils. Fossils were formed millions of years ago.
Common	Some children may think:
Misconceptions	- rocks are all hard in nature
	<ul> <li>rock-like, man-made substances such as concrete or brick are rocks</li> </ul>
	- materials which have been polished or shaped for use, such as a granite worktop, are
	not rocks as they are no longer 'natural'
	- certain found artefacts, like old bits of pottery or coins, are fossils
	- a fossil is an actual piece of the extinct animal or plant
	- soil and compost are the same thing.