

KEY VOCABULARY

Fossil The remains of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock.

Minerals Solid substances that occur naturally. The Earth is made up of thousands of different minerals.

Igneous Rock Lava or magma that has turned from liquid to solid (forming a rock).

Metamorphic Rock Started out as igneous or sedimentary rock but changed due to being exposed to extreme heat or pressure.

Sedimentary Rock Rock that has been formed by layers of sediment being pressed down hard and sticking together. You can see the layers of sediment in the rock.

Sediment Dead animals, plants or pieces

Magma Molten rock that remains underground.

Lava Liquid rock which flows out of a volcano.

Permeable Allows liquids to pass through it.

Impermeable Does not allow liquid to pass through it.

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Rocks

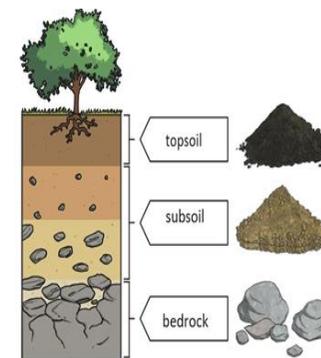
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Mary Anning (1799–1847) was a famous fossil hunter and collector. Despite her poor background and not a lot of education, she was the first to discover and identify many pre-historic fossils.



Soil is the top layer of the Earth. It is a mixture of:

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



How are fossils formed?

An animal dies. It gets covered with **sediments** which eventually become rock.

More layers of rock cover it. Only hard parts of the creature remain, e.g. bones, shells and teeth.

Over thousands of years, **sediment** might enter the mould and the bones may change to mineral but will stay the same shape.

Changes in sea level take place over a long period.

As **erosion** and weathering take place, eventually the fossil becomes exposed.

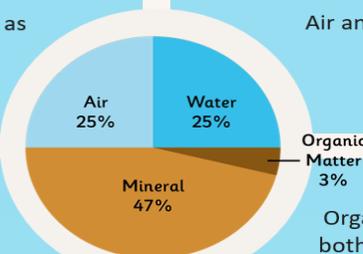


What is Soil made of?

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

Air
Soil contains gases such as carbon dioxide, oxygen, nitrogen, methane and radon.

Water
Air and water fill the gaps between particles of soil.



Mineral
The minerals in soil come from finely broken down rock.

Organic Matter
Organic matter includes both living and decaying animals and plants.

Natural Rocks			Human-Made Rocks
Igneous	Sedimentary	Metamorphic	
Obsidian	Chalk	Marble	Brick
Granite	Sandstone	Quartzite	Concrete
Basalt	Limestone	Slate	Coade Stone