

Science Vocabulary and definitions



Rocks

Year 3	
Absorb	To take in or soak up (a substance)
Anchor	To hold in place
Basalt	A dark fine-grained volcanic rock (igneous)
Chalk	A white, soft, earthy limestone formed from the skeletal remains of sea creatures.
Clay	A stiff, sticky, fine-grained earth that can be moulded when wet, and is dried and baked to make bricks, pottery and ceramics
Compressed	Flattened by pressure; squeezed or pressed together
Crystal	A solid with a natural geometrically regular form
Erosion	The gradual destruction of something (by wind, water or other natural agents)
Fossils	The remains or impressions of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock and preserved
Grains	Give a rough surface or texture to
Granite	A very hard, granular, crystalline, igneous rock. Often used as building stone
Hard-wearing	Able to stand much wear
Igneous	(of rock) having solidified from lava or magma
Limestone	A hard, sedimentary rock
Loam	A rich soil which is a mix of sand, clay and various organic materials
Magma	Is the molten or semi-molten natural material from which all igneous rocks are formed
Marble	A hard, crystalline, metamorphic form of limestone, typically with coloured mottlings or streaks
Metamorphic	Start out as some other type of rock, but have been substantially changed from their original form
Minerals	A mineral is a naturally occurring substance with distinctive chemical and physical properties
Molten	Fused or liquified by heat: melted
Naturally occurring material	A product or physical matter that comes from plants, animals or the ground which is not man-made
Nutrients	A substance that provides nourishment essential for the maintenance of life for life and growth

Peat	A dark brown deposit resembling soil, formed by the partial decomposition of vegetable matter in wet, acidic conditions. Often dried out for use of fuel and in gardening
Properties	The physical properties of rocks are density, specific gravity, water content, degree of saturation, porosity and pore number
Rock	A solid mineral material forming part of the surface of the earth and other similar plants, exposed on the surface of underlying the soil
Sand	A loose granular substance that results from the disintegration of rocks
Sandstone	Sedimentary rock consisting of sand or quartz grains cemented together, typically red, yellow, or brown in colour
Sedimentary	Sedimentary rocks are made when sand, mud and pebbles get laid down in layers. Over time squashed under more layers and eventually turn into rock
Sediments	Small pieces of land that break down are called sediment
Silt	A solid dust-like sediment that water, ice and wind transport and deposit
Slate	Grey metamorphic rock that is made up of quartz and other minerals
Soil	Soils are complex mixtures of minerals, water, air and organic matter, and countless organisms that are the decaying remains of once-living things
Solid material	A state of matter that maintains its own shape instead of conforming to the shape of its container
Solidified	To make or become solid, compact, or hard
Weathering	A natural process that slowly breaks apart or changes rock. Heat, water, wind, living things, and other natural forces cause weathering