Rocks and Soils

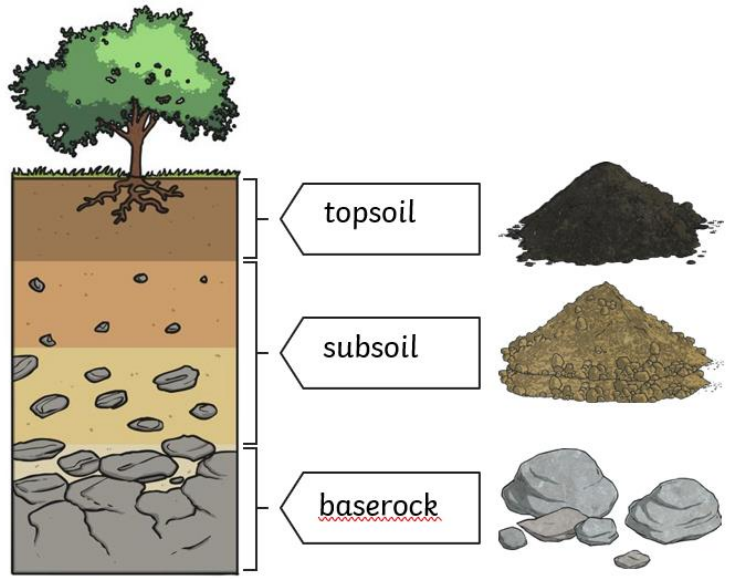
Key Vocabulary	
fossilisation	The process by which fossils are made.
igneous rock	Rock that has been formed from **magma** or **lava**.
impermeable	Does not allow liquids to pass through it.
lava	Molten rock that comes out of the ground is called **lava**.
magma	Molten rock that remains underground.
metamorphic rock	Rock that started out as **igneous** or **sedimentary rock** but changed due to being exposed to extreme heat or pressure.
permeable	Allows liquids to pass through it.
sediment	Natural solid material that is moved and dropped off in a new place by water or wind, e.g. sand.
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.

Key Knowledge

Soil

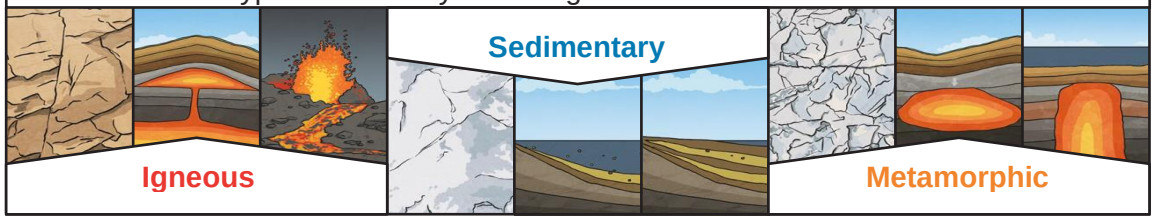
Soil is the uppermost layer of the Earth. It is a mixture of different things:

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



Key Knowledge

There are three types of naturally occurring rock.



Fossilisation

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 to make a **cast fossil**. 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.