

Year Group	3
Term	Autumn
Subject	Science

Topic	Rocks
Curriculum Intent	For children to explore how different types of rocks are formed, how fossils are created and preserved and how soils are made from rocks and organic matter. Children will develop a secure understanding of rock types and their properties through practical investigation and scientific enquiry.

Key Vocabulary	igneous, intrusive, extrusive, magma, sedimentary, metamorphic, erosion, weathering, fossil, sediment, soil, permeable, durable, decompose, embedded, texture, chalky soil, sandy soil, clay soil
-----------------------	---

Science Skills	Ask relevant questions and use different types of scientific enquiries to answer them. Make systematic and careful observations. Use comparative and fair testing. Gather, record, classify and present data. Use results to draw conclusions and make predictions. Report findings from enquiries in oral and written forms using scientific language.
-----------------------	---

Science Knowledge	Compare and group together different kinds of rocks based on appearance and 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.
--------------------------	---

Week	Learning Objective	Activities	Outcome
1	LO: To explore the formation and properties of igneous rocks	Use DE presentation and videos. Practical: chocolate and honeycomb rocks to model intrusive and extrusive formations. Children write explanation texts.	Children explain how igneous rocks are formed and identify intrusive vs extrusive types.
2	LO: To explore the formation and properties of sedimentary and metamorphic rocks	Classify and group rock samples. Conduct tests for durability, permeability, density. Use handouts to record observations.	Children identify and explain differences between the 3 main types of rocks using observations and evidence.
3	LO: To understand different types of weathering and the suitability of rocks for different purposes	DE presentation and vinegar test for chemical weathering. Children design a weather-proof school plaque.	Children describe chemical, physical, and biological weathering and select suitable rocks for outdoor use.
4	LO: To explore how water contributes to the weathering of rocks	Investigation: submerge rock samples in water, measure weight/appearance changes. Children compare before and after data.	Children explain how water contributes to weathering and evaluate rock suitability.
5	LO: To understand how fossils are formed and preserved in rock	Watch fossilisation video. Make coffee-ground fossil dough and press objects to simulate imprint fossils. Order fossil formation images.	Children describe how fossils form through sedimentation and mineralisation.
6	LO: To explore different types of soil and their properties	Test samples of soil for texture, permeability, and appearance. Record results using Developing Experts handouts.	Children identify and describe types of soil and compare properties.