

- Soil is a natural resource.
- It is made up of pieces of ground down rock which may be mixed with plant and animals matter.
- **Soil is a mixture of:**
 - minerals (the minerals in soil come from finely broken-down rock);
 - air;
 - water;
 - organic matter (including living and dead plants and animals).





Year 3 Science
Spring 1
Fossils and Soils
Science strand: Chemistry


Vocabulary

Word	Definition
skeleton	A collection of bones
fossilisation	the process through which a fossil is formed
fossils	The remains or trace of a living thing that lived a long time ago.
sediment	Small pieces of soil, sand, gravel and small rocks.
rock	A natural material found on or underneath the Earth's crust
shell	A hard covering on the outside of an animal's body.
nutrients	chemical compounds found in food that the body uses to function and stay healthy
soil	a mixture of small rocks, organic matter and water

Fossils were formed millions of years ago.

1 Plants and animals died and sank to the seabed. 2 The soft parts decayed away leaving the hard parts. 3 The hard parts were covered and squashed by many layers of sand and other materials. 4 The animal/plant matter dissolves and is replaced by minerals, leaving a replica of the original bone called a fossil.	Animal fossil  Plant fossil 
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The property of soils is affected by the:
 type of rock
 size of rock pieces
 amount of organic matter in it.

Peat 	- water-logged - contains partially decomposed plant material - soft and easily compressed
Sandy soil 	- light and dry lots of air gaps so water drains through quickly
Chalky soil 	- stony and water drains through quickly - found in areas with lots of chalk
Clay soil 	- very sticky when wet - a heavy soil - water does not drain through it quickly

