

- Soil is a natural resource.
- It is made up of pieces of ground down rock which may be mixed with plant and animal 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

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



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

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

