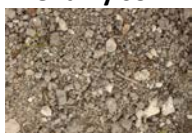
Rocks – Year 3

Key vocabulary	
rock	A naturally occurring material made of minerals. They can be different sizes: • stones • pebbles • boulders
fossil	The bones or other remains of living things are sometimes preserved in rocks as fossils.
soil	Ground up rock mixed with plant and animal remains.

Soils

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

Significant scientists	
Mary Anning *(1799-1847)* 	Mary Anning was an English palaeontlogist and fossil collecter. She became known around the world for important finds she made in Jurassic fossil beds in Dorset.
Holly Betts *PhD student, University of Bristol* Holly is a palaeobiologist. She is researching whether fossils are best for establishing a timescale for recent and ancient episodes in our evolutionary history.	

Fossil formation

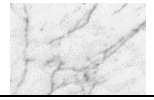
Fossils were formed millions of years ago.	
1 Plants and animals died and sank to the seabed.	**Animal fossil** 
2 The soft parts decayed away leaving the hard parts.	
3 The hard parts were covered and squashed by many layers of sand and other materials.	**Plant fossil** 
4 The animal/plant matter dissolves and is replaced by minerals, leaving a replica of the original bone called a fossil.	

Types of rocks

Sedimentary

sandstone 	**limestone** 
chalk 	Chalk is used for drawing because it is crumbly and soft.

Metamorphic

quartzite 	**slate** 
marble 	Marble is good for gravestones because it does not rub away.

Igneous

basalt 	**pumice** 
granite 	Granite is good for worktops because it is hard and does not absorb water.

Words to describe the appearance of rocks: