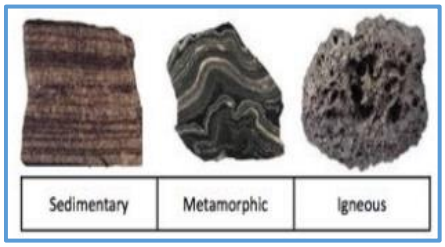
St Matthias CE Primary School Knowledge Organiser

Topic:	Rocks and Fossils	Year:	3	Term:	Autumn 1

Key Knowledge

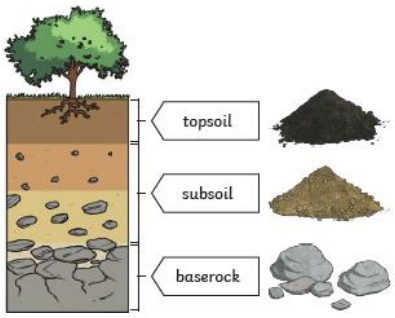
- **There are three types of naturally occurring rock.**



- **There are Natural rocks and Human-Made rocks.**

Natural Rocks			Human-Made Rocks
Igneous	Sedimentary	Metamorphic	
Obsidian	Chalk	Marble	Brick
Granite	Sandstone	Quartzite	Concrete
Basalt	Limestone	Slate	Coade Stone

- **Soil** is the uppermost layer of the Earth. It is a mixture of different things: **minerals** (these come from finely broken down rock), **air, water and organic matter** (including living and dead plants and animals).



- **Caves** are formed when water **permeates** through the base rock and **erodes** some of the rock away. Over thousands of years these caves can become very large.

Key Vocabulary

Igneous rock – Rock that has been formed from magma or lava.

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.

Metamorphic rock – Rock that started out as igneous or sedimentary rock but changed due to being exposed to extreme heat or pressure.

Magma – Molten rock that remains underground.

Lava – Molten rock that comes out of the ground is called lava.

Sediment – Natural solid material that is moved and dropped off in a new place by water or wind e.g. sand.

Permeable – Allows liquid to pass through it.

Impermeable – Does not allow liquids to pass through it.

Fossilisation – The process by which fossils are made.

Palaeontology – The study of fossils.

Erosion – When water, wind or ice wears away the land.

Bedrock - The solid rock underneath soil or loose rocks; the lowest of three main layers of soil.

Subsoil - The middle layer of soil, which contains more rocks than topsoil.

Topsoil - The top layer of soil, in which most plants have their roots.

Useful Websites

https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/elibrary/resource/26719/rocks-rocks-and-fossils

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z9bbkqt