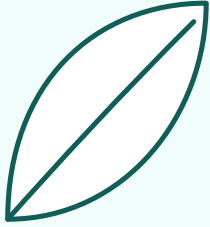


Rocks and Soil

2nd Grade

Where soil comes from, and the three kinds of rock.



Soil is broken-down rock mixed with the remains of dead plants and animals. It takes centuries to make.

- Igneous rock cools from melted rock — granite, basalt.
- Sedimentary rock is squashed layers — sandstone, chalk.
- Metamorphic rock is changed by heat and pressure — marble, slate.
- Wind, water and ice break rock into smaller and smaller pieces.
- Worms and fungi turn dead leaves into the dark part of soil.
- One centimetre of topsoil can take hundreds of years to form.

LOOK FOR IT

Sand, silt and clay are all just rock ground to different sizes.

Soil is not dirt. It is a living mixture, and almost all our food depends on it.