



Session Outline: Rocks, Soils and Composting Year 3

National curriculum:

Compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties

Describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock

Recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter.

Learning objectives	Session structure	
<p>To understand that soil is crucial for much of life on earth.</p> <p>That the earth is made up of rocks, and that the rocks are different due to how they formed and what they are made of.</p> <p>That decomposition is necessary for life on earth.</p>	<p>Introduction We discuss the topic broadly and test children's knowledge with a true and false game.</p> <p>Soils We discuss the importance of soil for life. Children take samples of soils from our site and agitate them in water to create a soil profile. Children feel different mineral components of soil and then use this to help them to compare real soil samples.</p> <p>Rocks Children have the opportunity to handle and perform simple tests on a wide variety of rocks from our collection. We discuss/demonstrate rock formation and children have a chance to make their own chocolate rocks!</p> <p>Composting We discuss the important role of decomposition for life and watch some videos that show the decomposition process. We then visit the wormery and compost bins and challenge the children to order the rotting process. Finally we investigate the old road on our site to figure out why we can no longer see it.</p>	
Before your visit	After your visit	Key vocabulary
<p>Have a look at some videos on YouTube that demonstrate rock formation.</p> <p>Watch the Skelton Grange compost video on YouTube.</p>	<p>Set up a rot experiment in your school grounds: bury some waste and exhume it every week. How long does it take to rot? What rots, what doesn't rot?</p> <p>Create soil profiles from various places in your school grounds. How do they vary?</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>Ask children to take photos of interesting rocks that they see around and about.</p>	<p>Mineral, organic, Hardness, dissolve, igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic. Micro-organism, bacteria, fungus, decompose.</p>