

Rocks

Types of rocks

The Earth's crust is made from **rocks** and **minerals**.

There are three types of natural rocks: **sedimentary**, **igneous** and **metamorphic**.

Concrete and bricks are not natural rocks. They are man-made and are called **anthropic** rocks.

Some rocks are **permeable** (let water and other substances through), and others are **impermeable**.

Soil

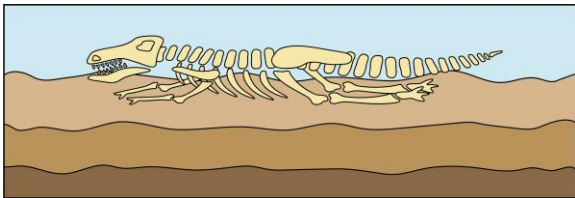
Soil is a mixture of tiny pieces of rock, dead plants and animals, air and water.

Formation of natural rocks

- **Igneous** rocks are formed when magma and lava (melted rock) cool and harden. They are hard and impermeable.
- **Sedimentary** rocks are formed when rocks are broken up and then deposited in layers. They are soft and permeable.
- **Metamorphic** rocks are formed when sedimentary and igneous rocks are under large amounts of pressure and heat.

Fossils

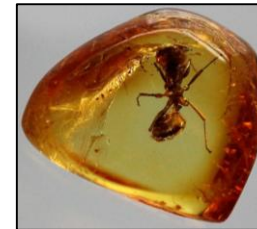
Fossils are the preserved remains or traces of dead organisms.



Some fossils are preserved remains that have turned to rock.



Trace fossils are the preserved remains of other evidence of life, like fossilised poo or feathers.



The remains of some organisms are preserved in ice or amber.

- Fossils provide evidence of extinct species.
- Some of these extinct species are classed as megafauna.
- Megafauna are large animals.

