

Starters for Science: Y3 Rocks

Starters for Science are 4 activities that parents can use at home to help children develop their science alongside the key learning and vocabulary children are using at school. The activities are easy to resource and provide children with the stimulus to learn and talk about their science topic. Encourage children to use the correct vocabulary as they talk about what they are doing and finding out. Don't forget to share your work on social media

#ScienceFromHome

Key Learning:

Rocks are natural. They come in all shapes, sizes and appearances. Some are layered, some grainy, some have crystals, some are rough and some smooth.

Rocks have different properties and this affects what they can be used for. They may be hard/soft, porous/waterproof, strong/weak. A hard rock, like granite, could be used for a kitchen top as knives won't mark it. A soft rock, like chalk, may be used to write on a blackboard as a white residue is left behind.

Some rocks are sedimentary rocks. These are formed at the bottom of oceans and river beds from the sediment which is put under high amounts of pressure. These rocks are often layered or grainy.

Fossils occur in sedimentary rock. Fossils are formed when a dead animal falls to the bottom of an ocean, lake or river bed. The soft parts decompose leaving behind the hard skeleton which is buried in sediment. The bones eventually dissolve and minerals fill the space left in the sedimentary rock. This is a fossil.

Soils are a mixture of tiny particles of rock, dead plants and animals (organic matter), air and water. They vary from place to place.

Vocabulary:

rock
stone
grains
crystal
layers
hard
soft
absorbent
soil
fossil
organic matter
grains
crystals
sedimentary rock

Gravestones

Have a walk to your local graveyard. Look closely at the gravestones. What are they made from? Are they all the same? Compare a newer gravestone and an older one. What differences can you see? What has that happened to the older one?

Soil shakers

Find out what's in your garden soil. Put a layer of soil in an empty jar with a lid. Fill the jar about 3/4 full of water and put the lid on tight. Shake up the soil and water mixture. Leave the jar to settle. You should see different layers of materials. Can you work out what they are?

Who was Mary Anning?

Research who Mary Anning was and why her finds were so important. Once you've found out all about her, can you teach someone else? Maybe make a fact file, a PowerPoint or use drama like here <https://www.pstt-cpd.org.uk/ext/cpd/dramatic-science/resources.html>

Uses of rocks

Go on a rock hunt around your home and in your local area. Where do you see rocks being used? Why do you think that rock has been chosen for that purpose? Think about the rock's properties.