How do rocks differ from one another?
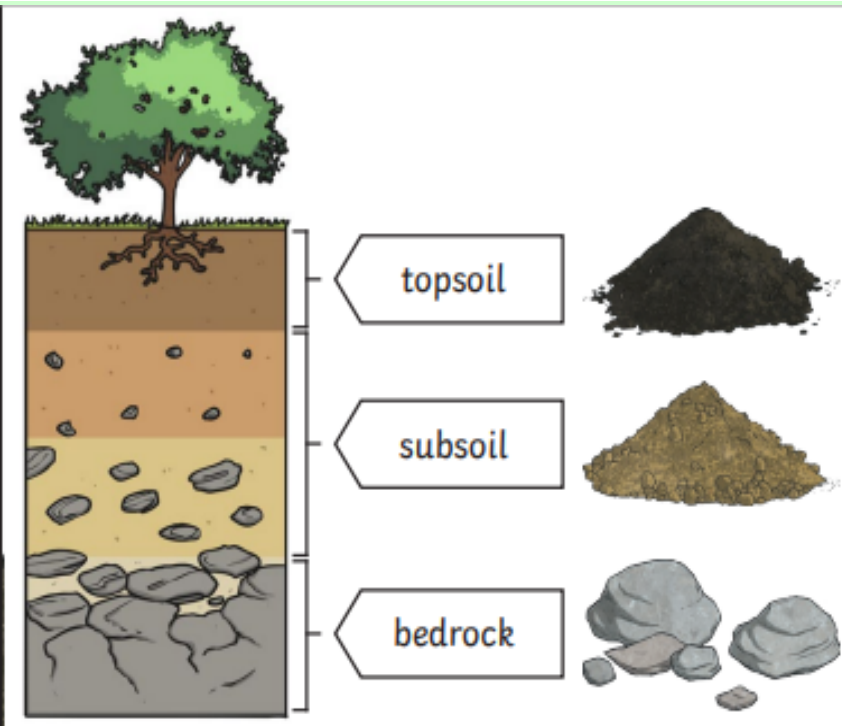
Vocabulary / Definition

Vocabulary	Definition
extinction	The dying out of a species from earth.
crust	The Earth's crust is the outermost layer of the planet.
fossil	Fossils are imprints of long dead plants and animals found in rocks.
weathering	a natural process that slowly breaks apart or changes rock. Heat, water, wind, living things, and other natural forces cause weathering.
molten rock	extremely hot liquid and semi-liquid rock located under Earth's surface.
tectonic plates	Tectonic plates are broken pieces made of the Earth's crust
paleontologist	study of plants and animals that lived millions of years ago, that are represented by fossils.

Types of Rocks

	Sedimentary	Igneous	Metamorphic
How is it made?	Made from layers of mud and sand, called sediment, that have settled in water and have been squashed over a long time to form rock.	Made from cooled magma or lava.	Formed when existing rocks are changed by heat and pressure.
Uses	Chalk is soft and can be easily eroded. This makes chalk suitable for writing and drawing on blackboards.	Granite is very hard and impermeable. Granite is used for making kitchen work surfaces.	Marble is easy to carve and is not easily eroded, making it suitable for sculptures.
Examples	Chalk Sandstone	Granite Obsidian	Marble Slate

Chalk   Granite   Marble

Soil

Soil is the uppermost layer of the Earth. It is a mixture of different things:

- minerals (the minerals in soil come from finely broken-down rock)
- air
- water
- organic matter (including living and dead plants and animals)

topsoil / subsoil / bedrock

Fossilisation

An animal dies. It gets covered with sediments which eventually become rock.	More layers of rock cover it. Only hard parts of the creature remain, e.g. bones, shells and teeth.	Over thousands of years, sediment might enter the mold to make a cast fossil. Bones may change to mineral but will stay the same shape.	Changes in sea level take place over a long period.	As erosion and weathering take place, eventually the fossil becomes exposed.