

SCIENCE · GRADE 3

Rocks and Soil

What's under our feet

Three types of rock

Type	How it forms	Examples
Igneous	Lava or magma cools and hardens	Granite, basalt
Sedimentary	Layers of sand, mud, and shells press down over millions of years	Sandstone, limestone, chalk
Metamorphic	Existing rock changes due to heat or pressure	Marble (from limestone), slate (from shale)

How soil is made

Soil starts as ROCK. Over thousands of years, rain, frost, and roots break rock into smaller and smaller pieces. Plants and animals die and rot — adding ORGANIC matter. Combine the rock bits with the rotted material and you have soil. Different places have different soil because of different starting rocks and climates.

Apply

1. Marble is metamorphic. What rock did it 'used to be'?
2. Why are sedimentary rocks often found in LAYERS?
3. Why does soil in different places look and feel so different?
4. What might happen to soil if no plants ever grew on it?

