

ROCKS, FOSSILS AND SOILS

GLOSSARY

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CAST FOSSIL	When the space left behind in a rock by a dissolved organism has filled with minerals, a fossil is created that has the same shape of the organism.
CHALK	A sedimentary rock composed of protozoan (tiny microorganisms) shells.
CLAY	Soil composed of mineral particles of very small size. It may feel soft due to the tiny particles.
COMPOST	Mixture of decomposing vegetable refuse (leaves, vegetables, etc.) used to recycle minerals, enriching the soil.
EARTHWORM	A segmented worm that aerates the soil, adding space and air pockets as it eats the organic materials, breaking them down to basic minerals that are returned to the soil for plants to use. They are hermaphrodites, meaning they have both sperm and egg. Earthworms have 4 hearts and 150 segments. Earthworms breathe only through their wet skin.
EROSION	Movement of soil by wind or water. Rocks are changed to smaller pieces and become soil through erosion.
EVOLUTION	The change in a species over time.
FOSSILS	Ancient remains of plants or animals preserved in rock. Fossils are usually found in sedimentary rock.
GRANITE	An igneous rock composed feldspar, quartz, and mica. The crystals are large and easy to differentiate because they cooled slowly deep in the Earth, allowing time for the minerals to grow.
HUMUS	Consists of decaying organic materials, is loosely packed and therefore holds more air and water.
IMPRINT FOSSIL	Fossils formed when an object leaves an impression in soft mud, which hardens.
LOAM	Soil rich in organic (living) materials, sand and clay.
MINERALS	Minerals are inorganic (neither plant nor animal) substances from the Earth. A mineral consists of 1 substance only.
PERMEABILITY	The soil or rocks' ability to let water flow through. Whether water runs off the land into gutters or rivers, or is absorbed into the soil and how tightly packed the particles are.
PUMICE	An igneous rock that is formed during volcanic eruptions when molten rock is thrown into the air and cooled before it reaches the ground. Gases escape during this very rapid cooling, leaving numerous air holes and bubbles of trapped gas inside.

ROCK	A rock is made of one or more minerals. Two varieties of the same rock may appear different because of the different proportions of the minerals.
SETAE	Hair-like bristles on each segment that help an earthworm move.
SOIL	The layer of organic (living) and inorganic materials on the surface of the Earth. The texture of soil depends on the particle size and the materials present.
WEATHERING	The breaking down of the Earth's surface by abrasion with wind, rain, and chemicals in the rain, etc.