	Term	Definition
1	*Rock*	A hard, solid material that is made of minerals and is found in nature.
2	*Soil*	The top layer of the ground, in which plants grow; dirt.
3	*Mineral*	A solid, natural material that does not come from a living thing.
4	*Metamorphic rock*	Rock formed when any type of rock goes through changes caused by extreme heat and pressure (e.g. marble, slate).
5	*Igneous rock*	Rock formed by the cooling and hardening of hot magma or lava. Formed by volcanoes! (e.g. basalt, granite).
6	*Sedimentary rock*	Rock formed when sediment is pressed together over time. Formed over a long period of time (e.g. shale, limestone, sandstone).
7	*Rock cycle*	The series of changes that rock undergoes over time as it shifts between different types.
8	*Fossil*	The remains of a plant or animal that turned to stone over a long period of time. Mostly found in sedimentary rock.
9	*Weathering*	The process of wearing away or otherwise changing Earth's surface, caused by natural forces.
10	*Erosion*	The process of transporting and wearing away rocks or soil as loose articles that are moved by water, wind, ice or gravity.
11	*Bedrock*	The solid rock underneath soil or loose rocks; the lowest of three main layers of soil.
12	*Subsoil*	The middle layer of soil, which contains more rocks than topsoil.
13	*Topsoil*	The top layer of soil, in which most plants have their roots.
14	*Organic*	Having to do with or coming from living organisms.
15	*Refine*	To remove unwanted materials from a substance.
16	*Process*	To cause something to go through steps that will change or improve it.

How are fossils formed?		
1	Amber	Insects are often found preserved in hardened tree sap called amber.
2	Carbonization	When all the elements of the organism have dissolved apart from carbon leaving an outline.
3	Casts & molds	When an organism dissolved in the earth, a hollow mold is sometimes left behind. It is then filled by minerals.
4	Freezing	Preserved in ice, especially in glaciers.
5	Mummification	When a dead organism quickly dries out the remains can be preserved.

Why is soil important?		
1	Plants	Nutrients in soil help plants to grow & anchor roots in the ground.
2	Atmosphere	Soil releases gases such as carbon dioxide in to the air.
3	Living organisms	Many animals, fungi & bacteria live in soil.
4	Nutrient cycles	Soil is important in recycling nutrients.
5	Water	Soil helps to filter and clean water.

6	Soil is described by several characteristics, including: • Texture/consistency • Colour • Density/structure

The Rock Cycle