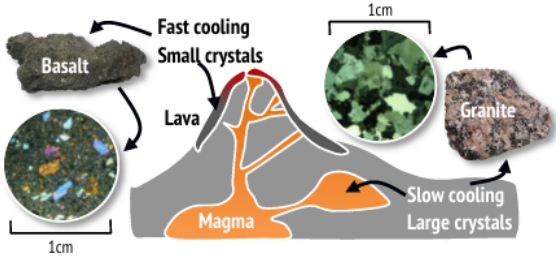
Rock, or stone, is a **hard material**. Rock makes up the outer layer of **Earth**, called the **crust**.

Beds of sandstone, mudstone and limestone in the Grand Canyon

Sedimentary Rocks are laid down in layers which are made from broken up bits of other rocks and remains of animals and plants that have been squashed together. **They can be soft and wear away easily**.

Igneous Rocks are made when molten rock (lava or magma from a volcano) cools down. **They are very hard and do not wear away easily.**



Metamorphic Rocks are rocks that have been changed over time by intense heat and pressure deep underground. **They are hard and can be polished.**

Brachiopod: 450 million years old

Fossils are the preserved remains of a dead plant or animal. They come in all shapes and sizes. formed through a process of multiple stages called **fossilisation**, and this takes place over many, many years.

Ammonite: 170 million years old

Key Vocabulary

mineral	a solid, naturally occurring, inorganic substance
igneous	rock formed by solidifying magma
metamorphic	rock that has been changed usually by heat or pressure
sedimentary	rock formed from sediment deposited by water or air
pressure	continuous physical force
permeable /impermeable	material that allows/does not allow liquids or gases to pass through it
durable	materials that are long-lasting, sturdy, and capable of withstanding wear, pressure, or damage over an extended period
paleontologist	a scientist who studies the history of life on Earth by analyzing fossils
fossil	the remains of a prehistoric plant or animal preserved in rock
preserve	maintain (something) in its original or existing state

Science - What are the key properties of rocks? (Year 3)