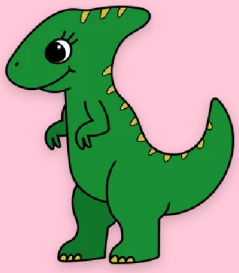
SCIENCE · ROCKS, SOIL AND FOSSILS · GRADES 3–5

Three Kinds of Rocks

Match igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic to how they form, then sort six rocks.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



1. Draw a line from each kind of rock to how it forms.

igneous ●	● layers of sand, mud and shells get pressed together
sedimentary ●	● a rock is changed by heat and pressure deep underground
metamorphic ●	● melted rock (magma or lava) cools and hardens

2. Write each rock in the right column.

limestone · sandstone · marble · obsidian · slate · granite

Igneous	Sedimentary	Metamorphic
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Which kind of rock might have a fossil in it? Why?

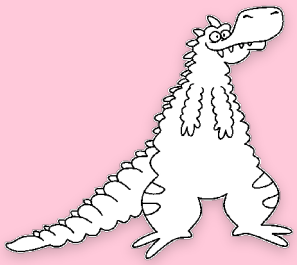
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SCIENCE · ROCKS, SOIL AND FOSSILS · GRADES 2–4

Rock Detective

Look at four rocks: color, shine, texture and a scratch test, then draw your favorite up close.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Find four rocks. Look at each one closely. For the **scratch test**, try to scratch it with your fingernail, then with a penny. Soft rocks scratch easily.

Rock	Color	Shiny or dull?	Smooth or rough?	Scratch test: hard or soft?
1				
2				
3				
4				

Draw your favorite rock up close.

Where did you find it? What do you think it is made of?

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SCIENCE · ROCKS, SOIL AND FOSSILS · GRADES 2–4

Layers of Soil

Label humus, topsoil, subsoil and bedrock on the diagram, then fill in three sentences.

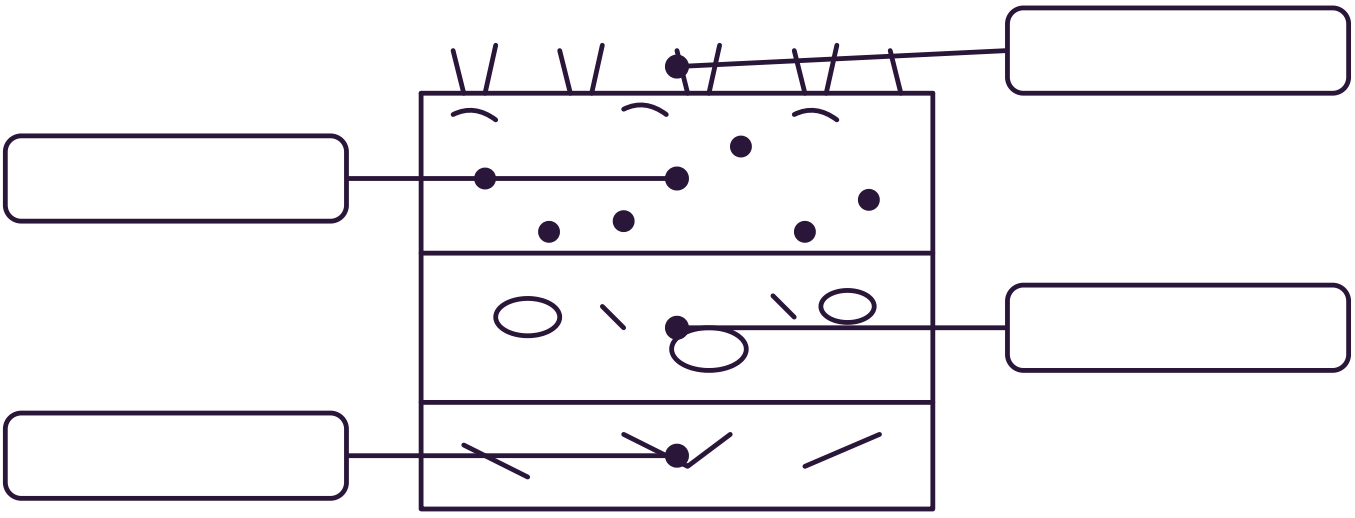
Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Word bank

humus | topsoil | subsoil | bedrock

1. Label the layers of soil.



2. Fill in the blanks.

1. Dead leaves rot into dark, rich _____ on top.

2. Plant roots grow in the _____, the richest layer.

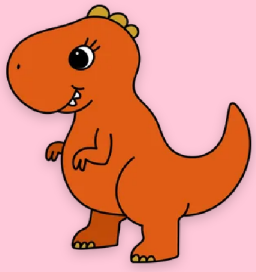
3. Solid rock at the very bottom is called _____.

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SCIENCE · ROCKS, SOIL AND FOSSILS · GRADES 3–5

How a Fossil Forms

Number the five steps that turn a dead animal into a fossil, then draw a fossil you would like to find.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

A **fossil** is what is left of a plant or animal that lived long ago, kept in rock. Most fossils form on the bottom of a sea or lake.

1. Write 1 to 5 to put the steps in order.

- [ ] Mud and sand slowly cover the body.
- [ ] The rock wears away and someone finds the fossil.
- [ ] An animal dies and sinks to the bottom of the sea.
- [ ] More layers press down and turn to rock over millions of years.
- [ ] The soft parts rot away. The bones and shell stay.

2. Draw a fossil you would like to find.

3. What can a fossil tell us about the past?

_____

_____

_____

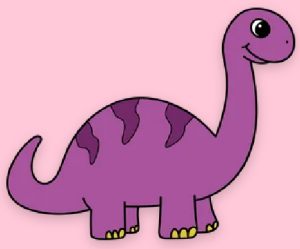
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SCIENCE · ROCKS, SOIL AND FOSSILS · GRADES 3–5

Layers of the Earth

Label the crust, mantle, outer core and inner core, then answer three questions.

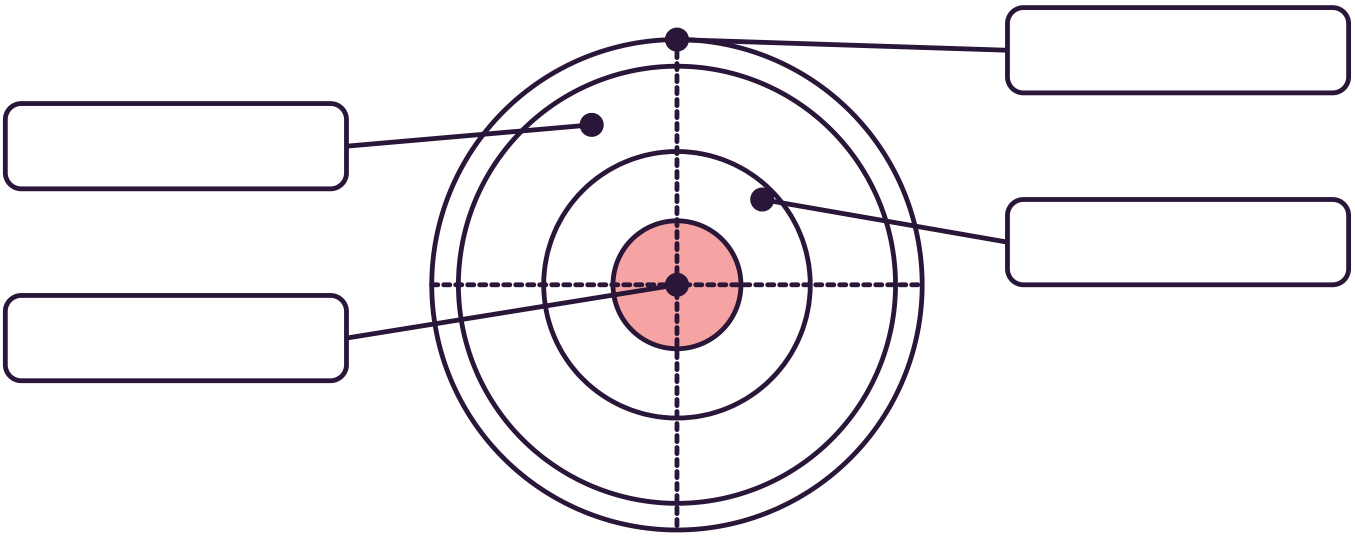


Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Word bank

crust | mantle | outer core | inner core

1. Label the layers of the Earth.



2. Circle the answer.

Which layer do we live on? crust | mantle | core

Which layer is the hottest? crust | mantle | inner core

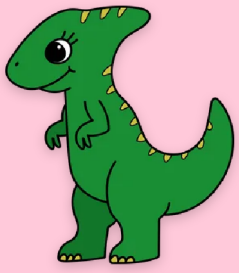
Which layer is made of hot rock that flows very slowly? crust | mantle | inner core

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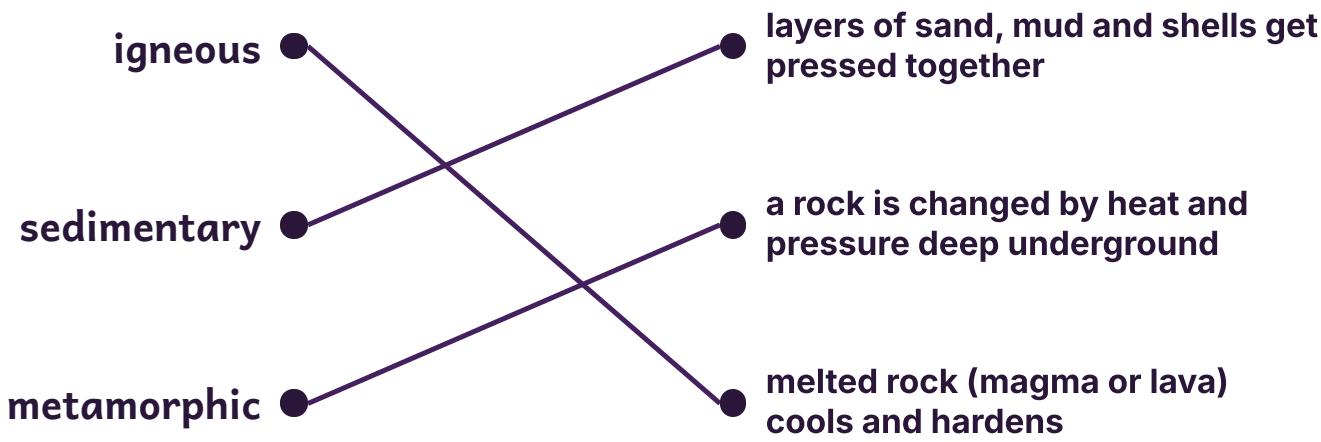
ANSWER KEY · ROCKS, SOIL AND FOSSILS · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Three Kinds of Rocks

Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



1. Draw a line from each kind of rock to how it forms.



2. Write each rock in the right column.

limestone · sandstone · marble · obsidian · slate · granite

Igneous	Sedimentary	Metamorphic
granite	sandstone	marble
obsidian	limestone	slate

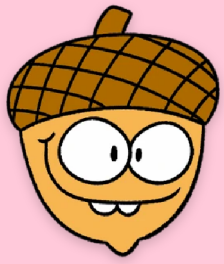
Which kind of rock might have a fossil in it? Why?

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · ROCKS, SOIL AND FOSSILS · GRADES 2–4

Answer Key: Layers of Soil

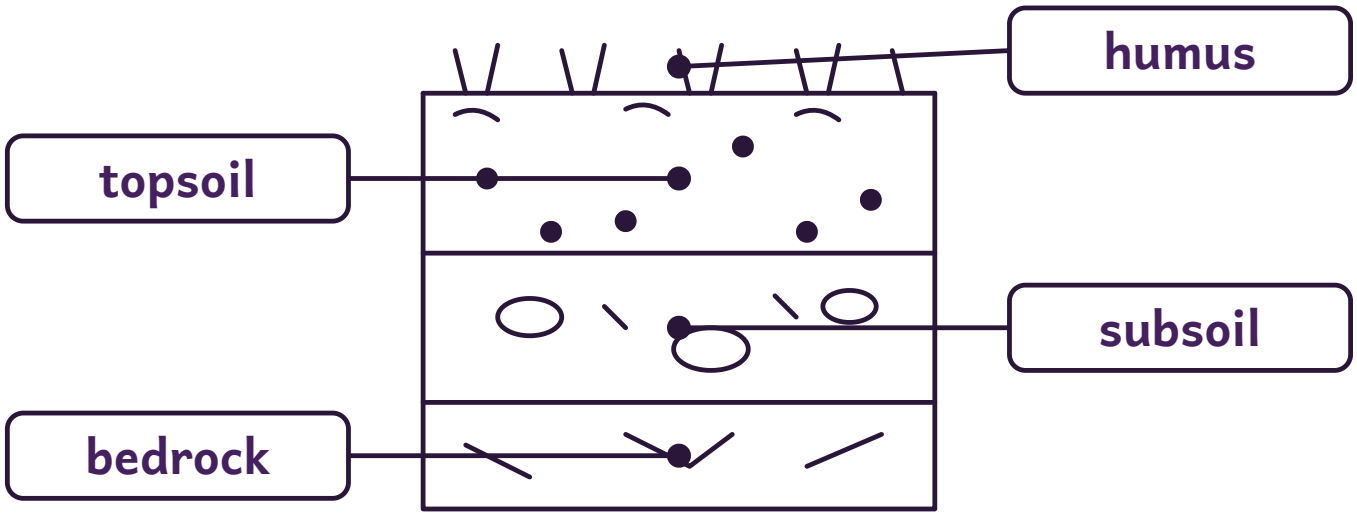
Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



Word bank

humus · topsoil · subsoil · bedrock

1. Label the layers of soil.



2. Fill in the blanks.

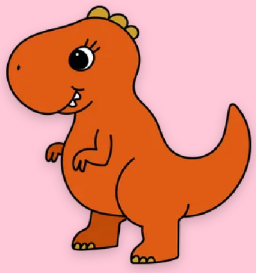
1. Dead leaves rot into dark, rich **humus** on top.
2. Plant roots grow in the **topsoil**, the richest layer.
3. Solid rock at the very bottom is called **bedrock**.

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · ROCKS, SOIL AND FOSSILS · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: How a Fossil Forms

Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



A **fossil** is what is left of a plant or animal that lived long ago, kept in rock. Most fossils form on the bottom of a sea or lake.

1. Write 1 to 5 to put the steps in order.

2 Mud and sand slowly cover the body.

5 The rock wears away and someone finds the fossil.

1 An animal dies and sinks to the bottom of the sea.

4 More layers press down and turn to rock over millions of years.

3 The soft parts rot away. The bones and shell stay.

2. Draw a fossil you would like to find.

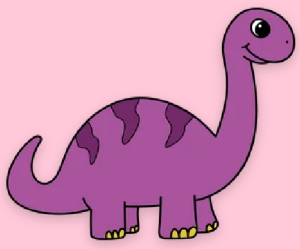
3. What can a fossil tell us about the past?

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · ROCKS, SOIL AND FOSSILS · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Layers of the Earth

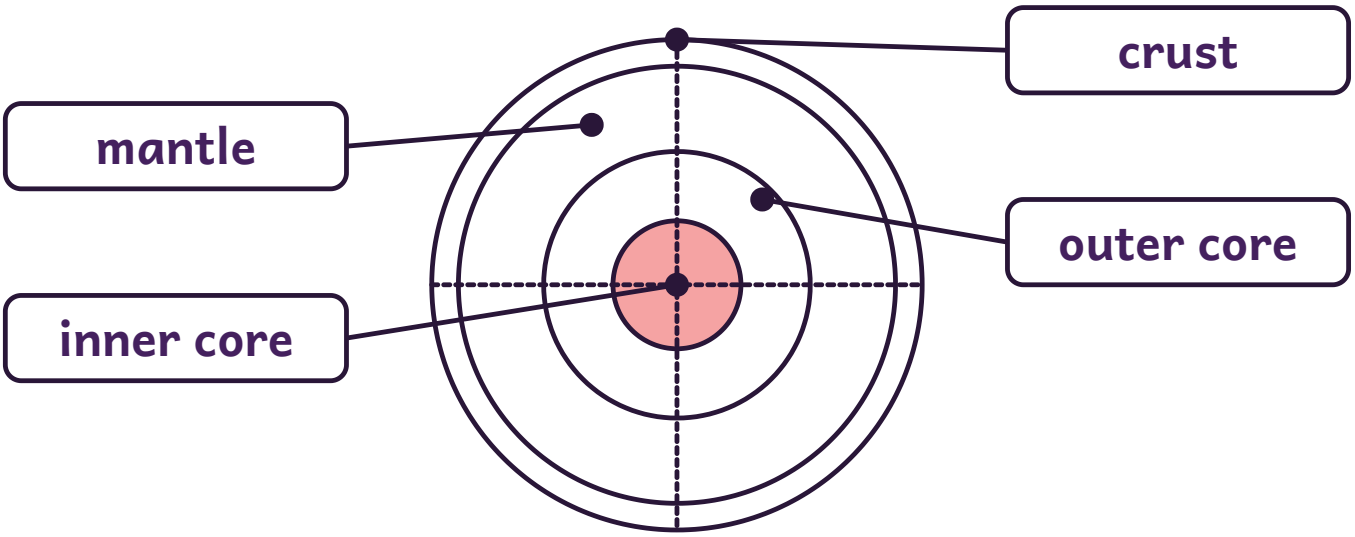
Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



Word bank

crust · mantle · outer core · inner core

1. Label the layers of the Earth.



2. Circle the answer.

Which layer do we live on? **crust** · mantle · core

Which layer is the hottest? crust · mantle · **inner core**

Which layer is made of hot rock that flows very slowly? crust · **mantle** · inner core

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