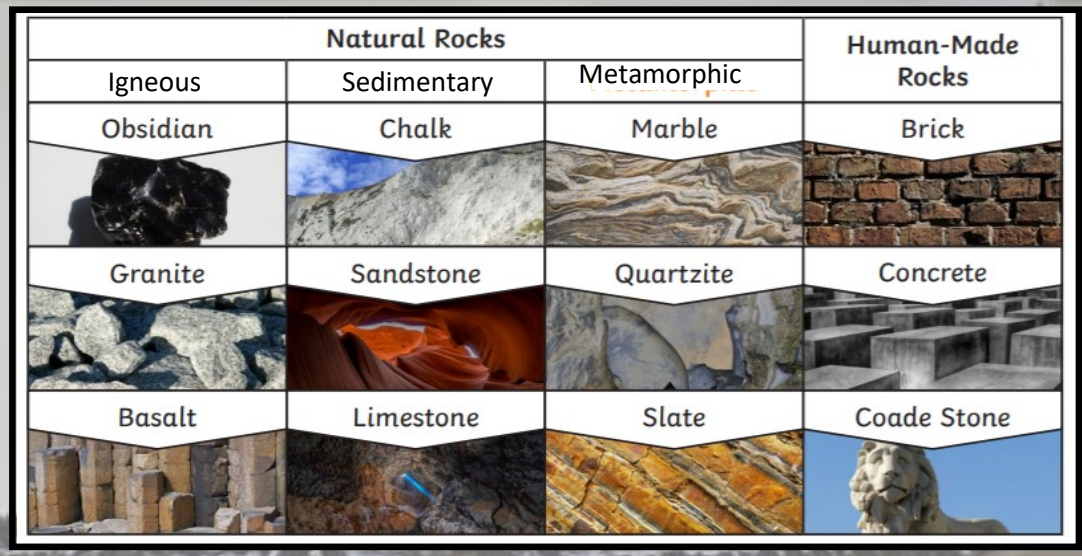
Burwell Village College Primary

What lies beneath us?

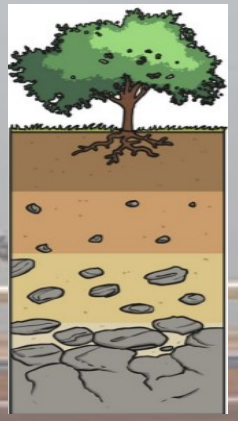
Rocks

igneous rock	rock formed from magma or lava.
sedimentary rock	rock formed when layers of sediment have been pressed down hard and stick together.
metamorphic rock	rock that started out as igneous or sedimentary rock but it changed due to being exposed to extreme heat or pressure.
magma	molten rock which remains under-ground
lava	molten rock that comes out of the ground
sediment	natural, solid material that is moved and dropped off in a new place by water or wind
permeable	allows liquid to pass through it
impermeable	does not allow liquids to pass through it
durable	able to withstand pressure or damage
erosion	soil and rock is removed from one area of the Earth through natural causes such as wind, water, and ice and transported elsewhere



Fossils and Soil

- When an animal or plant dies, it usually decays quickly or can be eaten.
- However, sometimes it is covered in sediments, which eventually become rock. Only hard parts of the creature remains.
- Over thousand or millions of years, sediment might enter the mould to make a cast fossil.
- As erosion and weathering takes place, eventually, the fossils become exposed.
- Soil is the uppermost layer of the Earth. It is a mixture of different materials, such as minerals, air, water, rock and organic matter.



Key Scientist

- When Mary was young, her family was very poor.
- She used to help her dad to look for shells and bones up high on dangerous cliffs to sell.
- After receiving a book as a gift, Mary learned all about fossils. She continued to hunt for them and made the startling discovery of a complete skeleton of an ichthyosaur!
- Sadly, she wasn't allowed to study along with all the other men, but she carried on making her own discoveries and advising the Geological Society, when they needed help.
- Now, we all remember her though as the mother of palaeontology.