

Rocks and soils

What is a geologist?

A geologist studies the Earth and how it is made. They might look at the surface or deep underneath the ground.



This is Kirstin Lemon. She works at the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland. She helps the public understand the rocks and landscape of Northern Ireland.

Some geologists study volcanoes. Some study earthquakes. Geologists work in many different industries, such as:

- ▶ mining and quarrying
- ▶ engineering
- ▶ oil and petroleum
- ▶ environmental protection.

Key Learning and Science Skills:

- ▶ Curiosity about the world around them.
- ▶ Careful observation and recording of their findings.

Would you like to use your learning about rocks and soils when you are older? Maybe you'd like to be a geologist or a palaeontologist? I wonder if there are more jobs that use rocks and soils learning?

What is a soil scientist?

A soil scientist studies soil.



This is Sahil. He is a soil scientist. He has studied how different plants help to improve soils in dry countries.

This is important in lots of industries, such as:

- ▶ farming
- ▶ environmental protection
- ▶ building and landscaping.

Key Learning and Science Skills:

- ▶ Interest in the natural world.
- ▶ Perform simple tests to find out soil types and their uses.

What is a palaeontologist?

A palaeontologist studies fossils (including dinosaurs!) to find out about the history of life on Earth.



This is Xu Xing. He is a palaeontologist. He has named more dinosaurs than any other living palaeontologist.

Palaeontologists work in different places, including:

- ▶ museums
- ▶ universities
- ▶ outdoors excavating fossils.

Key Learning and Science Skills:

- ▶ Care when using tools to find and uncover fossils.
- ▶ Look carefully at fossils.
- ▶ Use sorting and grouping to decide what fossil they are looking at.