

# 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. Geologists work in many different industries and organisations, such as:

- ▶ mining and quarrying
- ▶ engineering
- ▶ oil and petroleum
- ▶ environmental protection
- ▶ volcanology (studying volcanos)
- ▶ seismology (studying earthquakes)
- ▶ Geological Survey of Northern Ireland.

**Key Learning** and **Science Skills** needed:

- ▶ Curiosity about the world around them because geologists will use maps to travel the world, spending time outdoors.
- ▶ Careful observation and recording of their findings to give accurate details of what is in the ground.



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

## What is a palaeontologist?

A palaeontologist studies fossils (including dinosaurs!) to find out about the history of life on Earth. Palaeontologists work in different places, including:

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

**Key Learning** and **Science Skills** needed:

- ▶ Patience and resilience when carefully using tools to find and uncover fossils.
- ▶ Observe closely using identifying and classifying (sorting and grouping) to find new fossils and know which dinosaur they belonged to.



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

## What is a soil scientist?

A soil scientist studies the soil under our feet. This is important in lots of industries, such as:

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

**Key Learning** and **Science Skills** needed:

- ▶ Interest in the natural world and enjoy being outdoors learning about soils and how they help plants.
- ▶ Perform simple tests to find out soil types and their uses.



*This is Sahil. He is a soil scientist working in different parts of the world. He has studied how different plants help to improve soils in dry countries.*

*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?*