

## 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 Lucy Crane. She is a geologist. She works for a company that plans to mine for materials to make electric car batteries.*

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 Aga. She is a soil scientist working in Ireland and looks at how healthy the soil is. Aga talks about soil with primary school pupils and farmers.*

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.