

Unit two : Rocks



Different rocks are selected by people to do different jobs. Not all rocks can do the same job.

A rock is chosen to do a job because of its **characteristics** (properties).

Ray begins discussing different rocks and outlines what they could be used for.



Chalk is a soft rock. It leaves a clear white mark when dragged along hard surfaces.



Granite is a very hard and attractive rock. It can be polished to a smooth, shiny finish.



Slate is an impermeable (waterproof) rock that forms long, flat sheets when broken. Water runs off it.



Sandstone is useful in construction and is abundant. This rock can be easily cut and shaped into blocks. It has been used by builders since the Ancient Egyptians. This rock is permeable and erodes quite easily.



Limestone is useful in construction. It is abundant, and is easy to cut and shape. Limestone is a hard rock that takes a long time to erode, even when walked on.



Diamond is the hardest rock and is difficult to break or scratch. It is clear, shiny and attractive, and is very expensive to buy.

Write the name of the rock you think is being used in the picture and explain why you think that rock was chosen. What are the properties of the rock that make it good for doing that particular job?

Chopping board		Fireplace	
	Rock:		Rock:
	Reason:		Reason:
Roof		Pavement	
	Rock:		Rock:
	Reason:		Reason:
Monument		Wall	
	Rock:		Rock:
	Reason:		Reason:
Art and drawing		Engagement ring	
	Rock:		Rock:
	Reason:		Reason:

1) Troy and Cooper discuss which of the rocks in their rock collection are the hardest. They decide to carry out the scratch test.



This table shows their results:

Rock	Was scratched by ...			
	fingernail	nail	matchstick	plastic knife
Coal	No	Yes	No	Yes
Limestone	No	Yes	No	No
Granite	No	No	No	No
Chalk	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

a. Which rock could Troy's fingernail scratch? _____

b. Which rock was the hardest? How do you know?

c. Use the table above to answer the following question.

Write the name of each rock in the boxes below. Place them in order from softest to hardest.

Softest Rock

Hardest Rock

2) Write down two things that hard rocks could be used for.

_____ and _____

3) Write three things that we can find in soil.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

4) Tick the things below that make up local or common garden soils.



Small stones

☐

Dead insects

☐

Tin cans

☐

Sand

☐

Paper

☐

Glass

☐

Plant bits

☐

Concrete

☐

5) The rocks we use can be either natural (made by the earth) or artificial (made in factories). Look at the rocks below and say whether they are natural or artificial.



Concrete

This rock is _____



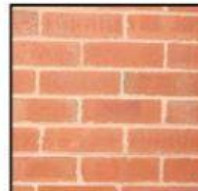
Limestone

This rock is _____



Sandstone

This rock is _____



Brick

This rock is _____