

Rocks and Soil

Grade 2 • SCIENCE • Students identify common parts of soil and recognize simple ways rocks can break into smaller pieces. • Standards: 2-PS1-1

Read each question carefully and write your answer. Think about what soil is made of and how rocks can break into smaller pieces!

1. Soil contains tiny pieces of what hard material?
2. Does soil contain pieces of dead leaves and plants? Answer yes or no.
3. When water freezes inside cracks in a rock, can it break the rock into smaller pieces? Answer yes or no.
4. What do we call the material that covers the ground and helps plants grow?
5. Tree roots growing into cracks can push rocks apart. Does this make rocks smaller or bigger?
6. Wind can blow sand against a rock for many years. Will this make the rock smoother or rougher?
7. Name one thing made from once-living material that can be found in soil.
8. A rock sits in a stream where water flows over it every day. After many years, will the rock be larger or smaller?
9. List two different things that soil is made of.
10. A rock gets very hot during the day and very cold at night. Over time, this heating and cooling can cause the rock to do what?

Answer Key — Rocks and Soil

For the teacher / parent. Do not distribute with the worksheet.

1. rocks
2. yes
3. yes
4. soil
5. smaller
6. smoother
7. dead leaves (*Other acceptable answers include dead plants, dead insects, or pieces of bark*)
8. smaller
9. small rock pieces and dead plant material (*Other acceptable answers include combinations like tiny rocks and once-living things, or rock bits and old leaves*)
10. crack or break into smaller pieces (*Either crack, break, or break into smaller pieces are acceptable answers*)