

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 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.

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.

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?