Rocks and Fossils

**Sorting rocks and minerals**

Some features that geologists use to sort rocks include:
- colour
- crystal size
- whether made of small or large particles, or a mixture (e.g. ‘compound’)
- whether grains in layers or not
- whether laminated
- hardness
- remains of animals
- shiny/flat surfaces.

Minerals are substances that were never living (i.e. non-organic). Rocks are a mixture of different ‘minerals’.
- No two minerals are the same.
- Many have a particular colour or shape helping to identify them.
- Some form large crystals, others form bubbly masses.
- Some grow as crusts on rocks.
- To make up rocks, some minerals are ‘glued’ together (and can be easily scratched) while in other rocks, minerals are ‘interlocked’ (need chemical or heat to separate mixtures).