



Rocks & Soils

Gold

These Gold questions require explaining and comparing rock and soil properties with genuine reasoning.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Section A: Rock Reasoning

1. Explain why granite is often used for kitchen worktops, using its properties.

2. A rock absorbs no water and is very hard. Suggest what it might be used for and why.

3. Explain the difference between how sedimentary and igneous rocks are formed, in simple terms.

4. Why might fossils be more commonly found in some types of rock than others?

5. Design a simple test to compare the permeability (how much water passes through) of two different rocks.

Section B: Soil Reasoning

1. Explain why farmers might add compost to soil before planting crops.

2. Compare sandy soil and clay soil - name one advantage and one disadvantage of each for growing plants.

3. Explain how earthworms might improve the quality of soil.

4. Why might a garden with very rocky, poor soil struggle to grow most plants successfully?

5. Explain the full process from solid rock to fertile soil, using at least three key steps.

