

Vocabulary



bedrock rock that lies under the soil and has not been broken into sediments

Many of the rocks you see are in small pieces. Bedrock has not been broken into pieces. If you dig deep enough in any location, you will reach bedrock. Bedrock can be any kind of rock—igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic. There can even be more than one kind of rock in one place.

core sample a cylinder-shaped sample of rock taken by drilling into Earth's crust

Core samples show what kind of minerals and rocks lie under the surface. A mining company takes samples before mining, so they know where to find valuable minerals. A construction company takes samples before building, so they know where strong rocks are to build on.

fault a weak area in Earth's crust

Earth's crust has some areas that are weaker than others. Earthquakes tend to take place along these weak areas, called faults, because the rock is already broken or because it can break easier than in other places.

geologist a scientist who studies Earth and the rocks and minerals that make it up

The study of the solid part of Earth is called geology. Geologists study everything related to rocks and minerals. Some study the patterns of earthquakes and volcanoes. Others look for oil and gas for large companies. Others study rocks to understand the history of our planet.