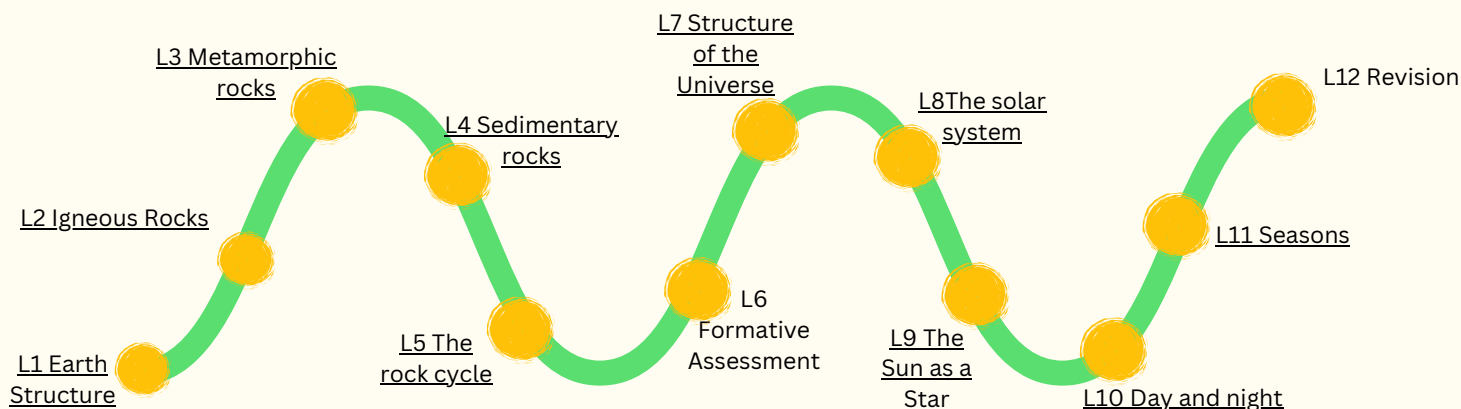


In this topic, you will learn how different types of rocks are formed and how they change over time in the rock cycle. You will also explore the structure of the solar system, including the planets, moons, and the role of gravity. Finally, you will investigate how the Earth's movements cause day, night, and the seasons.



Prior learning link: KS2 Rocks, Earth and Space

Key words

- **Igneous Rock** – Rock formed from cooled molten magma or lava.
- **Sedimentary Rock** – Rock made from layers of sediments pressed and cemented together.
- **Metamorphic Rock** – Rock formed when existing rock is changed by heat and pressure.
- **Rock Cycle** – The continuous process of rock formation, breakdown, and reformation.
- **Erosion** – The wearing away and transport of rock by wind, water, or ice.
- **Weathering** – The breakdown of rocks by physical, chemical, or biological processes.
- **Fossil** – The preserved remains or traces of ancient living organisms found in rocks.
- **Magma** – Molten rock beneath the Earth's surface.
- **Lava** – Molten rock that has erupted onto the Earth's surface.
- **Solar System** – The Sun and all the objects that orbit it, including planets, moons, and asteroids.
- **Planet** – A large object that orbits a star and has cleared its orbit of other debris.
- **Moon** – A natural satellite that orbits a planet.
- **Gravity** – A force that attracts objects towards one another, especially towards the centre of planets or stars.
- **Orbit** – The curved path an object follows around a planet, star, or moon.
- **Rotation** – The spinning of a planet or moon on its axis, causing day and night.
- **Eclipse** – An event where one celestial body moves into the shadow of another, blocking light (e.g. solar or lunar eclipse).

Revision Resources

[BBC KS3 The Earth and Atmosphere](#)

[BBC KS3 Space](#)