

ROCKS

'Planet Earth' consists of three lessons on the theme of rocks, which can be taught as a stand-alone unit or as part of the larger package. As such these lessons are best taught after the unit on 'Violent Earth' which introduces pupils to earthquakes and volcanoes and before the unit called 'Dynamic Earth' which deals with the weathering and erosion of rocks. If teaching as a stand-alone unit, the first lesson in 'Future Earth', entitled 'Rocks in our Lives' could also be taught as a fourth lesson in this unit.

- Lesson 1** 'Rock Observation and Identification' gives children the opportunity to handle, observe, and identify rocks from across Northern Ireland, using the supplied sample rocks, available from....
- Lesson 2** 'Rock Properties' focuses on the permeability of some rocks and gives the pupils a chance to experiment and to record and interpret their results, just as real scientists do.
- Lesson 3** 'Rock Formation' deals with the three main ways in which rocks are formed and introduces the concept of the rock cycle. Children are encouraged to classify their original rock samples based on what they have learned.

The lessons are mainly practical and children really enjoy the opportunity to handle and talk about rocks all from within a Northern Irish setting.