

- What are the different types of rock and how are they formed?
- What type of rock will you find on Dartmoor and why?
- Identify and classify different rocks.
- How is soil formed?
- What type of soils are found on Dartmoor and why?

Rocks and soils

Science

Local wildlife

- What animals and wildlife are particular to Dartmoor and why is that?

Weather

- How has the weather affected human settlement on Dartmoor and the landscape?

Year 3
Local
Study -
Dartmoor

Physical

Geography

Human

- Where is Dartmoor?
- How was it formed?
- What are the main geographical features?
- How has its geography changed over time?

Mapping

Field Work

- Match suitable titles to maps identifying their purpose
- Use maps with different scales – Large scale Ordnance Survey maps (1:1250, 1:2500) and smaller scales (1:10 000)
- Use maps and aerial views

- Field Trip to Merrivale to identify evidence of early human settlement on Dartmoor (link to our previous topic on the Stone Age)
- Identification of geographical features and local wildlife.

- How has human settlement on Dartmoor changed over time?
- What impact has this had on the geography of Dartmoor?

Physical and Human

Dartmoor was formed 280 million of years ago by molten lava bubbling to the surface then cooling creating the granite rock it is famous for. The landscape was then moulded by several ice ages between 2 million and 10,000 years ago and the frequent freezing and thawing broke up the granite to create the tors and granite scatters. The first evidence of human settlement dates from the Neolithic period (4,000 BC to 2,500 BC) where stone circles and burial sites have been found. From the Bronze Age onwards there is plenty of evidence of human settlement with the tin and wool industries ,and later on tourism, providing work.

Local Area

Dartmoor is located in the South- West of England and along with Bodmin Moor and Exmoor makes up a significant part of our local landscape. It is known for its Tors – large outcrops of rocks – and the area can be seen clearly from Plymouth on a clear day. It takes its name from the River Dart which flows from the moor at Dartmeet to the sea at Dartmouth via Totnes. Dartmoor has a population of around 33,000 people with the main towns being Ashburton, Mortonhampstead, Buckfastleigh and Princetown. It is a special area of conservation due to its peat bogs and ancient woodlands and home to an abundance of wildlife. Dartmoor has been protected by National Park status since 1951 and the whole area covers 368 square miles.

Mapping

Maps can be used to help us find our way such as a street map or a Sat Nav device, but they can also be used to show the geographical features of a place. They can also be used to give us information on population, land use, climate and many aspects of human and physical geography. Maps can come in different scales depending on how much detail is needed for its purpose. To navigate on Dartmoor 1: 25,000 scale map (4cm = 1km) is advised.

Science link

Rocks: There are three main types of rock: igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. Metamorphic rocks are rocks which have undergone changes. Sedimentary rocks have been formed by layer upon layer of deposits which are then put under pressure to create rock. Igneous rocks are formed when melted rock cools and then solidifies. Dartmoor was formed millions of years ago from molten lava creating the granite rock that it is famous for.

Soils: soil is formed from rock and organic matter (dead plant material). Dartmoor is famous for its peat soils and bogs. Peat is a special type of soil which is found in very wet places. The very wet conditions mean that the plant matter does not decompose so easily. These peat bogs are a haven for wildlife and need to be protected.



Key Terms

Moorland
Tor
Peat bog
Granite scatter
Igneous rock
Sedimentary rock
Metamorphic rock
Erosion
Decompose
Scale (map)
Key (map)



Enquiry Questions

- How has human settlement on Dartmoor changed over time?
- How was Dartmoor formed?
- What are the main geographical features of Dartmoor?
- What animals and wildlife are particular to Dartmoor?



Website Links

<https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/home>

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/merrivale-prehistoric-settlement/>