

Have you ever been to the beach?



Have you felt the sand under your feet or built a sandcastle?



What did it feel like? Did you think about where it came from?



Do you think all beach sand from
around the world is the same?



Here is some sand from Hawaii



Here is sand from Belize. Does it look the same? If not, how is it different?



And here is sand from the Cayman Islands.



So why do they all look different?
What is sand made of?



Is all Beach sand the same?



Most beach sand is composed of quartz with other minerals and rock fragments mixed in.



When the sediment comes from the erosion of cliffs and nearby mountains the sand particles can be large and the texture is coarse.



When most of the sediment is transported by rivers from further inland the sand texture is finer.

Can you guess where those sands came from? Did they have small or big pieces? Did they look sharp or smooth?

- If they had big pieces then they probably didn't travel very far.
- If they had smooth edges, they were probably carried by a river or other body of water and smoothed down (eroded).

Next time you are at the beach look at
the sand and see if you can tell where
it came from!