

Sandy Shores

Equipment Needed	Consumables
• Intel QX3+ Computer Microscope™	• none required
• beach sand	
• play sand	
• sample containers	

Procedure:



Launch the microscope software. Make sure the microscope has been set at 10X before starting to use it. Make sure the upper light is on.



Place the sample container of play sand on the stage, and focus the microscope. Increase the magnification to 60X and 200X and focus each time. Take a snapshot of one of the images of the play sand. This image should show the characteristics of the grains of sand clearly.



Repeat the same procedure for beach sand.



Compare the two types of sand.



Describe the appearance of the grains of play sand. Does it resemble any other types of rocks?

Describe the appearance of the grains of beach sand. What rocks does this type of sand resemble?

Write your explanation for the way each type of sand was formed. Please include your ideas about the reasons for their different appearances.

Be sure to tidy up the activity station before moving to the next one.

Sandy Shores Observation Sheet

Name _____

Include notes, diagrams and details about the two types of sand. In the bottom section of the chart, give your ideas about the two types of sand and how they might have formed.

Beach Sand	Play Sand
Formation and other observations	

Copy and paste any other digital images on another page to include with your observations.