Name: _____ Date: _____

Sand Starts as Rock

Circle group

Sand is soft in your hand. But sand began as rock.

A big rock sits by the sea. Waves hit it. Wind blows on it. Rain falls on it. After a long time, small bits break off.

The bits roll in the water. They get smaller and smaller. After many years, they are tiny grains. Those grains are sand.

Next time you are at a beach, look close. Each grain of sand was once part of something big.

Questions

1. What did sand begin as?

_____

_____

2. What hits the big rock by the sea?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the bits in the water?

_____

_____

4. Is sand made fast or slow?

_____

_____

5. What was each grain of sand once part of?

_____

_____

Words to know

sand: tiny bits of rock that you find on a beach
grain: one tiny piece of something, like sand
waves: moving ridges of water on the sea
beach: the sandy land at the edge of the sea

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sand Starts as Rock

Triangle group

Sand feels soft as it runs through your fingers. But sand began as rock.

A big rock sits near the sea. Waves hit it again and again. Wind blows on it. Rain falls on it. Over a very long time, small bits break off.

The small bits roll and bump in the water. They get smaller and smaller. After many, many years, they are tiny grains. Those grains are sand.

Next time you walk on a beach, look closely. Every grain of sand was once part of something bigger.

Questions

1. What did sand begin as?

_____

_____

2. What hits the big rock near the sea again and again?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the small bits in the water?

_____

_____

4. Does sand form quickly or slowly?

_____

_____

5. What was every grain of sand once part of?

_____

_____

Words to know

sand: tiny bits of rock that you find on a beach
grain: one tiny piece of something, like sand
waves: moving ridges of water on the sea

beach: the sandy land at the edge of the sea

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sand Starts as Rock

Square group

Sand feels soft and light as it slips through your fingers, yet every grain of it began as part of a rock.

Picture a huge rock standing beside the sea. Waves crash against it again and again. Wind blows across it, and rain falls on it. Over a very long time, small bits slowly break off.

Those bits tumble and bump around in the moving water. They wear down until they are smaller and smaller. After many, many years, they turn into tiny grains, and those grains are what we call sand.

The next time you walk along a beach, look closely at the ground. Each grain of sand was once part of something much bigger.

Questions

1. What did every grain of sand begin as part of?

_____

_____

2. What crashes against the huge rock beside the sea again and again?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the bits as they tumble around in the moving water?

_____

_____

4. Does sand form quickly or slowly? How can you tell?

_____

_____

5. What was each grain of sand once part of?

_____

_____

Words to know

sand: tiny bits of rock that you find on a beach
grain: one tiny piece of something, like sand
waves: moving ridges of water on the sea
beach: the sandy land at the edge of the sea

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Sand Starts as Rock

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Sand Starts as Rock

Easier · 78 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.1

1. Sand began as rock.
2. Waves hit it.
3. They roll and get smaller and smaller.
4. Slow. It takes many years.
5. Something big, like a rock.

Triangle: Sand Starts as Rock

This passage · 89 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.5

1. Sand began as rock.
2. Waves hit it again and again.
3. They roll and bump and get smaller and smaller.
4. Slowly. It takes a very long time.
5. Something bigger, like a rock.

Square: Sand Starts as Rock

Harder · 116 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4

1. A rock.
2. Waves crash against it.
3. They wear down and get smaller and smaller.
4. Slowly, because the story says it takes a very long time and many years.
5. Something much bigger, like a rock.