**COSEE Hands-On Activities**

**USA Science & Engineering Festival**

**Grouping: Geology**

**Lesson/Activity:** Sand Activity

<http://www.cesn.org/cosee_CD/web/activity/Sand_Activity.pdf>

**1. Mystery Sand.** What is your sand made from? What’s in your sand?Look carefully at your sand sample with your magnifier (or microscope if you have one). Which of the following things are in your sand (you can circle more than one).

* Small rocks
* Pieces of shells
* Pieces of glass
* Pieces of wood
* Pieces of plants
* Pieces of plastic
* Other things (name them)

**2. Sand Color.** What color is your sand? Look closely at your sand with your magnifier. List all the different colors you see in your mystery sand.

**3. Sand Origins.** Where do you think your sand came from?

**White rock** sand is mostly quartz from mountains.

**Colored rock** sand is from other kinds of rocks from mountains.

**Black** sand is usually from lava from volcanoes.

**Reddish orange** sand is usually from lava from volcanoes.

**White coral/shell** sand is usually from coral and shellfish in the ocean.

**Colored coral/shell** sand is usually from colored coral and shellfish.

**Colored glass or plastic** is broken glass and plastic from human garbage.

**Wood** is from plants.

**4. Sand Size.** Big waves, small waves, or no waves?

Do you think your sand came from a beach with big waves, small waves or no waves?

**Big** grains of sand are usually from a beach with bigger waves (big waves wash away small grains).

**Small** grains of sand are usually from a beach with small waves.

**Tiny** grains are from protected bays where there are no waves.