

SAND QUESTIONS

1. You observe a sand sample from Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. It has the following properties.

- Shape: angular
- Sorting: poorly sorted
- Grain sizes: a mixture of coarse sand to gravel
- Composition/color: clear, pink, black, and white particles

What can you infer about the sand?

- Its source?
- How far the sand was moved or transported?
- Anything else?

2. Which sand sample do you think would have more rounded edges, one that has been transported a short distance or a long distance? Why?

3. A coarse sand is very well sorted, has rounded edges, and is composed mostly of quartz. Make an inference about how the sand was transported—wind, water, or ice. Support your inference with evidence.

4. A geologist discovered a sandstone that contained very fine particles of sand. The sand was well sorted, had rounded edges, and was composed mostly of quartz. When she looked at the sand grains more closely through a magnifier, she observed that the sand grains were covered with tiny nicks and scrapes that made the grain look frosted.

- What inferences can you make about the origin of the sand?
- What type of depositional environment can you infer?
