

SAND QUESTIONS

Name _____

Date _____ Period _____

Directions: Complete the following 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 Size – 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? _____

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:

- Shape – rounded edges
- Sorting – very well sorted
- Composition / Color – composed mostly of quartz

Make an inference about how the sand was transported – wind, water, or ice. Support your

inference with evidence. ? _____

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4. A geologists discovered a sandstone that contained

- Shape – rounded edges
- Sorting – well sorted
- Grain Size – very fine particles of sand
- Composition / Color – Mostly 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 looked frosted.

Make an inference about how the sand was transported – wind, water, or ice. _____

What type of environment can you infer? _____

5. Three students who were studying sand got sand samples from around the world.

- Amanda’s parents had saved some beach sand from a vacation they took to Oslo, Norway.
- Jamica’s uncle sent her some sand he collected from the side of a stream high on Mt. Kilimanjaro.
- Ricky’s family visited Death Valley in California, and he kept some of the sand from his shoes after he took a hike through the dunes.

Visualize the three sources of sand and the sand itself. Complete the description below for each sand.

	Source	Shape	Sorting	Size	Colors
Amanda’s sand					
Jamica’s sand					
Ricky’s sand					

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