

The Comparison of Sand to Sandstone and the Exploration of Bear Island's Mysterious Black
Sand

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Abstract

This paper will explore the specifications of sand and sandstone. It will clarify and compare the composition, classification, and identification requirements to qualify as a sand or sand stone.

Sand is a term in reference to size, not to composition or shape, but can be broken down into three subgroups (terrigenous, carbonate, and pyroclastic) based on composition. Sandstone is the most common type of sedimentary rock and is composed mostly of sand. Sandstone consists of framework, matrix, cement, and organic material. One sandstone can be given many different names because there are so many different ways to describe the rock, and is therefore a controversial subject. This paper will discuss weathering catalyst for the erosion of sandstone and the transportation of sand. It will also examine the reasons behind the brown and black beach sands and shells in North Carolina. First-hand observations and experimentations are also included. I explore the mysterious black sands that are found on Bear Island, North Carolina through the comparison of the black sands to the other surrounding sand found on the beach.