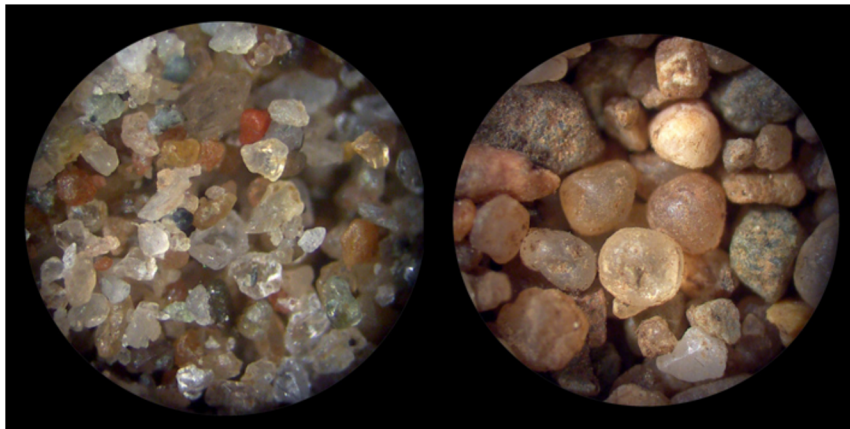


## GEOLOGY AND MATERIALS

## COMPARING SANDS AND GRAINS

- Collect several different samples of sand. Builder's sand, beach sand from low and high tide areas, stony beach sand, play sand....are all suitable.
- Suggest to the pupils that they are going to do a forensic examination to help catch a thief. Start with a scenario which would appeal to the class.
- For example: - A trail of sand was left by the thief near the window where a break-in took place. The sample will indicate where the culprit might work.
- The pupils should note colours, shapes, measure the sand grain sizes of the various samples and to look for pieces of shell and other materials.
- From their observations they should be able to identify which is the same as the police evidence.
- Use [Result Sheet 1](#)
- Encourage the pupils to look for shell pieces and other materials in the sand samples.



## SOIL SAMPLES

- A similar investigation can be carried out using soil samples.
- Collect various soil samples. Try to include sandy, clay, compost, stony and fine top soil.
- The grains of soil will be smaller than grains of sand so measuring grain size may not be suitable. Pieces of plant and decaying matter may also be noted. This activity encourages close observation.
- Use [Result Sheet 2](#)