

Sand Collection and Sand Lab Preparation

Hints from Tom Howick, University of Southern Maine

Here is how to start your Sand Collection and Sand Slides.

1. Materials:

film canisters, baggies, or medicine vials

labels

pencil or pen

microscope slides (3" x 1") or black art paper of same size

Elmer's Glue (diluted with water 3 water to 1 glue)

transparent tape, "double stick" (both sides with adhesive)

2. Never leave home without baggies, medicine vials, or film canisters in which to take samples. Remember to label them immediately and permanently when you collect your dry samples from the beach. (unlabeled samples are useless...) Write the location of the beach. (i.e., Cumberland Island, Georgia)

3. Involve your students and friends who travel. I have sands from Bermuda, Cayman Islands, France, Hawaii, and similar exotic corners of the world.

Making the student "slides" for the Sand Lab

4. Place one drop of glue (dilute) on the microscope slide or a piece of double stick tape on a 3" x 1" black art paper slide.

5. Sprinkle a small amount of sand from your Sand Collection on your slide or art paper slide.

6. Label your slide with the location that you collected the sand sample.

7. Let your slide dry.

8. View your sand with eye, hand lens, or microscope. Enjoy.