Weathering: Where Does Sand Come From?

Student quiz—*Answer key*

Directions: Write your answers to the questions below. Explain your answer to Question 4.

1. Where does sand come from?

   Less sophisticated response: *Sand comes from rock.*

   More sophisticated response: *Sand is rock broken down into small pieces by forces in nature.*

2. Wind can grind down rock. What are three other processes that weather rock?

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   - *See table of possible answers on the next page.*
   -

3. Write "True" next to each statement that is true and "False" next to each statement that is false.

   FALSE Rock never changes.

   TRUE Weathering of a rock can take hundreds to millions of years.

   TRUE Rock is constantly being made and broken down in nature.

   FALSE The composition and color of sand is always the same.

   TRUE Broken down volcanic rock can yield black sand.

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4. Where could sand that has the same composition of the rocky floor of the nearby sea come from? Explain your answer.

Less sophisticated response: *Rock on the seafloor can break down and form sand.*

More sophisticated response: *Water in the sea moves against its rocky floor. This and other natural processes break and grind the rocky seafloor down, creating sand. The sand can wash up to create the sand found on the beach.*

Some possible responses for Question 3.

Less sophisticated response:	**More sophisticated response:**
Water can grind down rock.	Water can flow against rock and gradually grind it down.
Ice can break rock.	Water can turn into ice and wedge cracks open.
Plants can break rock.	The roots of plants can push open and break rock.
Contact with air can make rock weaker.	Some rocks change composition when in contact with the air, making them weaker.
Rain can dissolve rock.	Some rocks change composition when in contact with rainwater. As a result, they dissolve in water.