Sorting Shells

Procedure

1. **Measure**  Work with a partner. Open the bag of shells. Spread out the shells on the desk. Use a metric ruler to measure the length of each shell. Record your measurements in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shell</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Shape</th>
<th>Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

2. **Observe**  Use a hand lens to observe the shells. Notice how the shells are alike and different.

3. **Classify**  Choose a physical property and classify the shells based on that property. A physical property is a characteristic that can be observed with the senses. Color, shape, and size are physical properties.

4. **Communicate**  Make a poster. Glue or tape the groups of shells on the poster. Write a label for each group. The label should describe the physical properties of the shells in that group.
Conclusion

Write the answers to the questions below.

1. Communicate  What physical properties did you use to classify your shells?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. Communicate  Which senses did you use to observe the physical properties of the shells?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Investigate More!

Design an Experiment  Think of other ways to describe shells. Does a magnet pull on them? Do they melt in the Sun? Do they float? Can you see through them? List your descriptions.