

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.

Observing Shells			
Shell	Length	Shape	Color

- 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.