

KNOW it ALLS

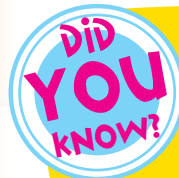


We don't really know it all. But we sure like to find it all out!
Like scientists, we watch the world and wonder. Then we try to find the answers to our what, where, why, and how questions.



IS GLASS REALLY MADE OF SAND?

Yup – it's crystal clear to us! You have to use sand made from quartz though. (Quartz is one of the most common minerals found in sand.) Mix the sand with lime and soda (no, not the kind you eat and drink; lime and soda are chemical compounds), and heat the mixture until it melts. The super-hot liquid looks something like thick, syrupy toffee, which is poured or shaped. As it cools, the liquid hardens into glass.



When a lightning bolt strikes sand, natural glass is formed. Glass made in this way is called a fulgurite, which means "lightning rock".

WHAT IS SINGING SAND?

Sand doesn't sing do-re-mi, but some beaches, sand dunes, and deserts are pretty darn noisy! Most "singing sands" are made of dry, medium-sized grains of quartz. When the wind blows across the sand, the grains slide past one another and make sounds that have been described as roars, booms, barks, and squeaks. They can even make the sounds of musical instruments such as tambourines, drums, and violins.



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