

LEVEL

6

Intermediate

Compass
Readers

How It's Made: From Sand to Glass

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The Beginning of Glass

Did you look out of a window today? Did you have some juice this morning or turn on a light? You probably used glass many times today. Many people never stop to think about how glass is made or what it is made with. They are surprised to learn that glass is made mostly of sand.



People began using glass a long time ago. They first saw **lightning** make it when the lightning hit sand on the ground. The sand **melted** and became long tubes of glass. People were able to see that lightning was hot. They realized glass formed when the sand was very hot.

Sand turns to glass when it is hit by lightning.





Beautiful bead necklaces are made of glass.

People were making glass **beads** over 4,500 years ago. Those are the first things people made out of glass. Later, they learned to make other things with it. They even used glass for money!

It's easy to make things with glass. It can have many different shapes. You can use it to hold different things.



What Glass Is Made Of

Sand isn't the only thing you need to make glass. Limestone and soda ash are two other things most glass is made from. Everyone knows what sand is because it's everywhere. You can see it in the desert and near the ocean.

Glass is not expensive to make because sand is a plentiful resource.

Sand can also come from a rock called sandstone. If water is sprayed on sandstone it will break into sand. Limestone is another rock that is also in many different places. It's used to make different things, even homes. To make glass, this rock has to be turned into dust.

