Headed to the beach this summer? You might want to pack more than your beach towel and swim gear. The beach is a great place to find amazing treasures! From wave-polished gems to collectible shark teeth, ocean treasures are plentiful on many sandy shorelines. With a bit of patience and a splash of luck, you could enjoy the rewarding adventure of beachcombing.

Begin your adventure by searching in areas along the shoreline where smooth rocks have washed ashore. Empty seashells and polished rocks come in all shapes, colors and patterns and are common beach treasures. However, if you see a hint of bright or unusual colors amongst them, take a closer look. It might just be a piece of sea glass. Sea glass is a beachcombing favorite. It's a small piece of colored glass that, over time, has been worn smooth by the water and sand of the ocean. This gentle wear creates a frosty look on the surface of the glass, and some even use it to create unique pieces of ocean-inspired jewelry.

Shark teeth are another beachcomber favorite. Sharks are always losing teeth and growing new teeth to replace the ones they lose. Some sharks are known to lose about one tooth per week! Many sharks can grow more than 30,000 teeth in their lifetime! That's a whole lot of chompers lost to the waves of the ocean. This is why people collect sea teeth and even use them to make admired jewelry. To hunt for shark teeth, you'll want to bring along something to scoop and strain wet sand, such as a wire basket with a handle. Wade in shallow water, scoop some sand from the ocean floor into the basket. Strain out the fine stuff by swishing the basket through the water. Then look carefully at the pebbles and...
other ocean items trapped against the wires. Shark teeth are triangular in shape with one especially sharp point, and they are usually dark gray or black in color.

Some beachcombers use high-tech tools to help find treasures in the sand. If you're interested in finding items more valuable than sea glass, shark teeth, and shells, you might want to try using a metal detector. With this tool, you can find lost coins, jewelry, bottle caps, tools, and other items that contain metal. If you'd like to try this method of treasure hunting, try areas of the beach where lots of people frequently visit. Be prepared for lots of digging in the sand!

Of course, it's important to be prepared for a lucky day of beachcombing. You wouldn't want to find treasures, only to then have to leave your loot behind! Bring a container to keep all of your finds safe. Plastic bags are waterproof, and work well to hold a variety of small items. Containers with lids are a better choice for larger treasures. Carefully pack any items that might be fragile to prevent them from getting broken or crushed. Be sure to label your containers with information about when and where you found your beach treasures. This way, the items will be easy to add to a collection.

Be safe and responsible while you're searching for beach loot. Since you're near the water, explore the beach with a friend or family member; never go beachcombing alone. Follow the rules for the beach, and pay attention to signs that warn of danger or wildlife. Be respectful of the animals and plants that live along the beach. If you find a nest of eggs, for example, just leave it alone. Clean up after your adventure and be sure not to leave anything behind.

Finally, don't forget to take lots of pictures of your time on the beach. Perhaps the greatest beachcombing treasure of all is the memories that you will make on your adventure while you search for your ocean treasures!
A Lucky Day at the Beach

1) The author's purpose in writing this article is to...
   a) entertain the reader with a story of one person's adventure at the beach.
   b) inform the reader about ways to enjoy treasure hunting at the beach.
   c) persuade the reader to get a metal detector for beachcombing.
   d) explain the differences between sea glass and shark teeth.

2) Why do you think treasure hunting on a beach might be called 'beachcombing'?

3) In paragraph 5, what does the word 'fragile' mean?

4) What is sea glass? Why do you think it is a beachcomber favorite?

5) How would you prepare for a day of beachcombing?
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2) Why do you think treasure hunting on a beach might be called 'beachcombing'?
   When you comb through something you go through it in a fine and up-close sort of way, similar to the way that you might have to look for things on a beach. Sifting through sand is like combing through hair.

3) In paragraph 5, what does the word 'fragile' mean?
   Easily broken

4) What is sea glass? Why do you think it is a beachcomber favorite?
   Sea glass is a small piece of colored glass that has been worn smooth by the ocean over time. People like to find and collect it because it has a unique look, and can be used to make jewelry.

5) How would you prepare for a day of beachcombing?
   Answers may vary.