

# A Lucky Day at the Beach

by Liana Mahoney

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 beachcombing.



Begin your adventure where smooth rocks have various shapes, colors and perhaps a hint of bright or unusual piece of sea glass. Sea glass that, over time and gentle wear creates sea glass, and some even

Shark teeth are

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. Many of these teeth eventually wash to the shore. 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

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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 that you wouldn't want to find a container to keep all your treasures. You should hold a variety of small items. Carefully pack any items that are fragile or crushed. Be sure to label your found your beach treasures.

Be safe and responsible when you are near the water, especially when you are beachcombing alone. Watch for signs that warn of danger or waves. If you find a r

eachcombing. You should not be left behind! Bring a bucket, shovel, and work well to find items. Be careful to choose for larger treasures. Avoid breaking or crushing items when and where you find them. Add to a collection. Be responsible. Since you're alone, never go far from the beach. Pay attention to signs that warn of danger or waves that live along the beach. Clean up after your

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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'?

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3) In paragraph 5,

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4) What is sea glass

rite?

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5) How would you prepare for a day of beachcombing?

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