The Education Program at the
New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium
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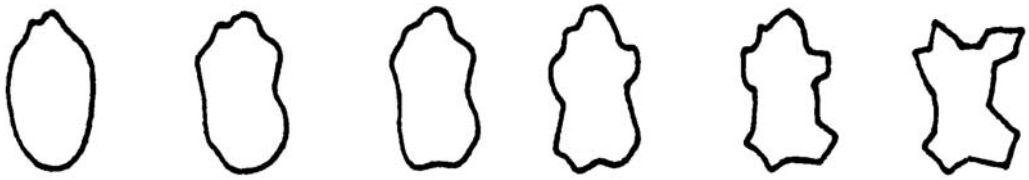
GRAIN SHAPE – HOW DO THE SAND GRAINS APPEAR?

Rock is broken down into particles by mechanical and chemical forces and transported by wind, water, and ice. As the particles are moved from place to place they are worn or abraded, becoming more rounded and smooth the further it travels.

Using the diagram below, estimate the shape of the grains in your sample. Be sure to examine the sphericity (how close to a ball shape is the grain?) and the roundedness/angularity (how sharp are the angles of the grain?). Think of how far and from where your sample may have traveled. Circle the grain shape pictured below that is the most common shape in your sample.

	Very rounded	Rounded	Sub-rounded	Sub-angular	Angular	Very angular
High sphericity						
Low sphericity						

Draw a picture or tape a sample of your most common grain type in the correct box below.

	Very rounded	Rounded	Sub-rounded	Sub-angular	Angular	Very angular
High sphericity						
Low sphericity						

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