



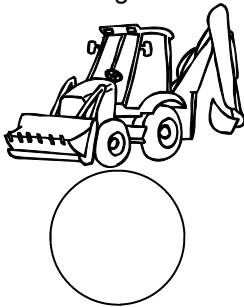
## Sand and Gravel on the move

The sands and gravels from Willington are found beneath the surface of the soil and can be dug out for us to use. Sand and gravel is known as AGGREGATE. This word is used to describe something which has been broken down into smaller pieces, either naturally or by humans.

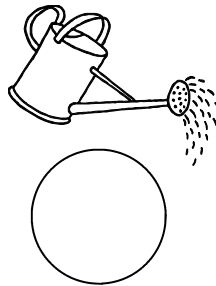
At Willington Quarry, diggers scrape the top layer of soil off and dig out sand and gravel. It is then taken to a processing plant where the clay and silt is removed and the sand and gravel is separated into different grades (sizes). The different sizes are put into bags or onto lorries and sold to be used for many different things.

Can you put a number on these pictures to show the order that all these things might happen in? Mark the thing that happens first with a number 1.

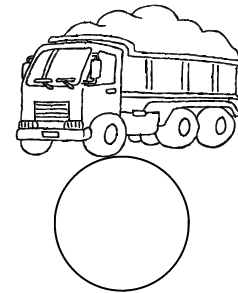
Digging sand and gravel



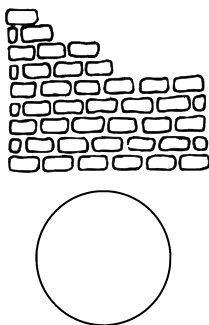
Washing sand and gravel



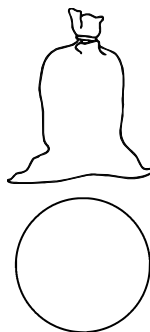
Moving the sand and gravel to customers



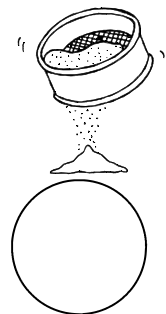
Building a wall



Bagging?



sorting the sand and gravel



Sand and gravel can be used for many different things.

It can be mixed with cement to make ready-mixed concrete, or mixed with bitumen to make asphalt for the surfaces of our roads.

Do you think these uses of sand and gravel are true or false?

- Ice cream
- Road surfaces
- Building walls
- Concrete
- Plasticine
- Car parts
- Driveways
- Roofing tiles



## Suggestions for work:

- Encourage discussion in groups relating to how important sand and gravel are in our lives. Ask children to name things that involve the use of sand and gravel.
- **Create and apply labels** to a building to indicate products made of or including sand or gravel
- Consider a **field visit** to the Lafarge quarry at Willington. This must be arranged through the mineral company but they can offer site visits and guided tours on occasion. Contact details:

Mr Simon Bryant, Quarry manager  
Lafarge Aggregates Ltd.  
Willington Quarry  
Bedford Road  
Cople  
Bedford  
MK44 3PG

Tel: **01234-838165**

- Visit the Youth zone section on the **website** of the Mineral Products Association ([www.mineralproducts.org](http://www.mineralproducts.org)) to find out more about use of minerals in our lives.