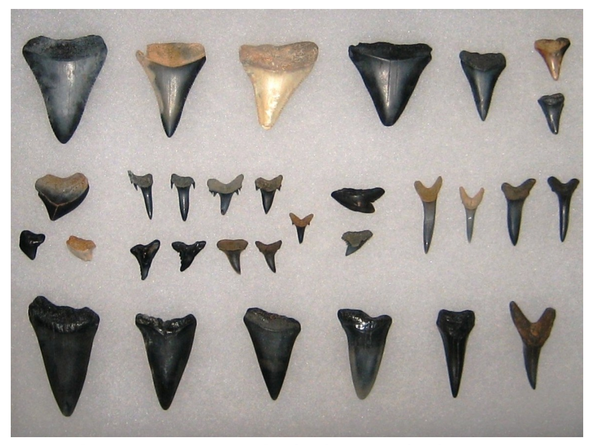
Mock Dig

Sponsored by the

Shreveport Geological Society

QUARTZ

- Very common mineral in the Earth's crust (SiO_2) - silicon oxide
- Crystals are hexagonal (6 sided) but also occurs as masses
- Igneous in origin, but weathered quartz makes up most sand
- Impurities give it different colors
- Used in electrical components, clocks, sandpaper, & is the main component of glass



SHARKS TEETH

- Sharks can shed thousands of teeth in their lifetime
- To be "fossilized" they must be buried quickly to prevent abrasion, scavenging, & decay
- It takes thousands of years to fossilize
- The precipitation of minerals from water in the sediments causes the change in color from white to brown or black
- Different shark species have different shaped teeth, based mainly on their food source

PYRITE

- Very common mineral in the Earth's crust (FeS_2) - iron sulfide
- Often called "fools gold" but is much harder and lighter than gold (gold is about **4 times** heavier)
- Often has cubic (box-like) crystals
- Minor ore of iron and sulfur

POLISHED ROCKS

- Small pieces of rock that have been tumbled with water & increasingly finer "grit"
- Many are microcrystalline (crystals that require a microscope to see) or cryptocrystalline (crystals too small to see with a conventional microscope) forms of quartz

For more information on these samples, visit the website for the Shreveport Geological Society @ **SGS1.org**