

# Classifying Old Marbles

Sorting and grouping old marbles help us learn to recognize the uniqueness of each marble. It also develops “organizational thinking”, a skill you will use in almost any profession later in life. Use the following pages as you group old marbles.



## Does it have lines, called “ribbons”?



**Swirls** have lots of ribbons that swirl all over the marble.



**Corkscrews** have ribbons that spiral like a candy cane.



**Baseballs** have pairs of ribbons like the seam on a baseball.

## Is the base clear? What’s inside?



**Cat Eyes** have ribbons inside that leaf out like a fan blade.



**German Swirls** have twisted ribbons inside called the “core”.



**Sulphides** are clear with a white or silver colored figure inside.

## What do you see on the surface?



**Rainbows** have ribbons that wrap around and stop at cut-line.



**Sunbursts** have earth tone strands running from pole to pole.



**Patch Marbles** have color dabbed on one side like a patch.

## Is the finish bumpy?



**Benningtons** are clay marbles covered with a bumpy glaze.



**Hand-made Indian Swirls** have bumps on the ends called "pontil".



**Hand-made Marbles** have a bump on the end called a pontil.

## Are you sure it's made out of glass?



**Steelies** are steel ball bearings. Some are Civil war musket shot.



**Agates** are hand-ground from stone into a round ball.



**Clay Marbles** are molded and baked earthen clay.