

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.



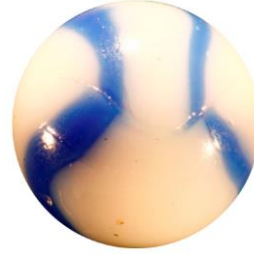
Does it have lines, called “ribbons”?



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.