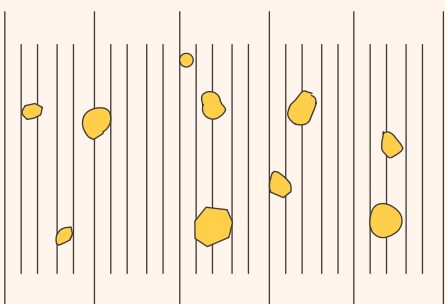


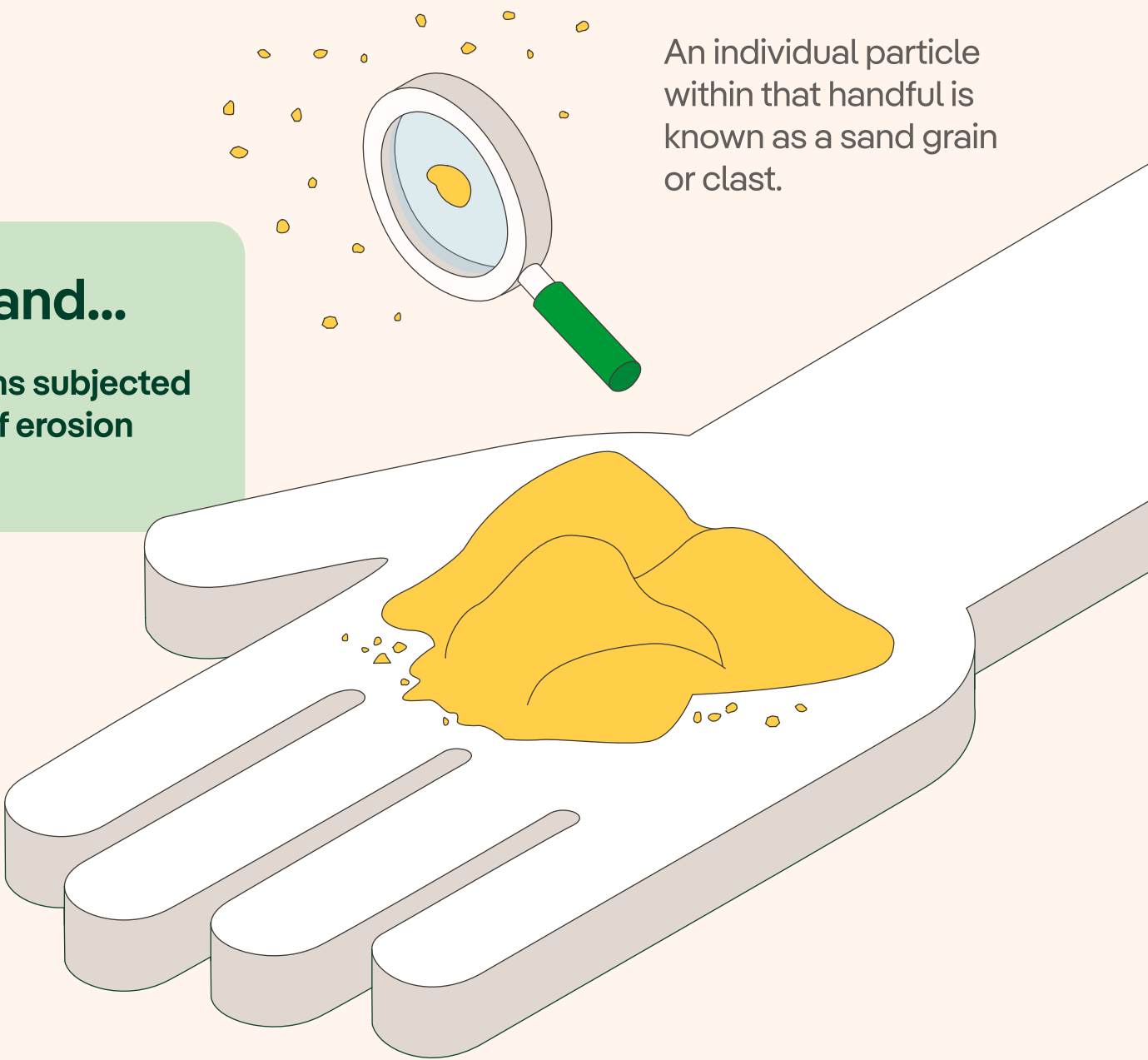
Sand, grain by grain

A handful of sand...

1,000,000 mineral grains subjected to intense processes of erosion and weathering.



The size of a grain of sand ranges between 0.0625 and 2 millimetres.



An individual particle within that handful is known as a sand grain or clast.

The shape of each grain of sand can vary



Angular



Sub-angular



Sub-rounded

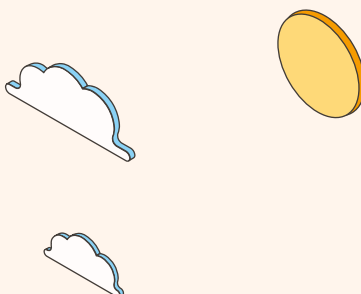


Rounded

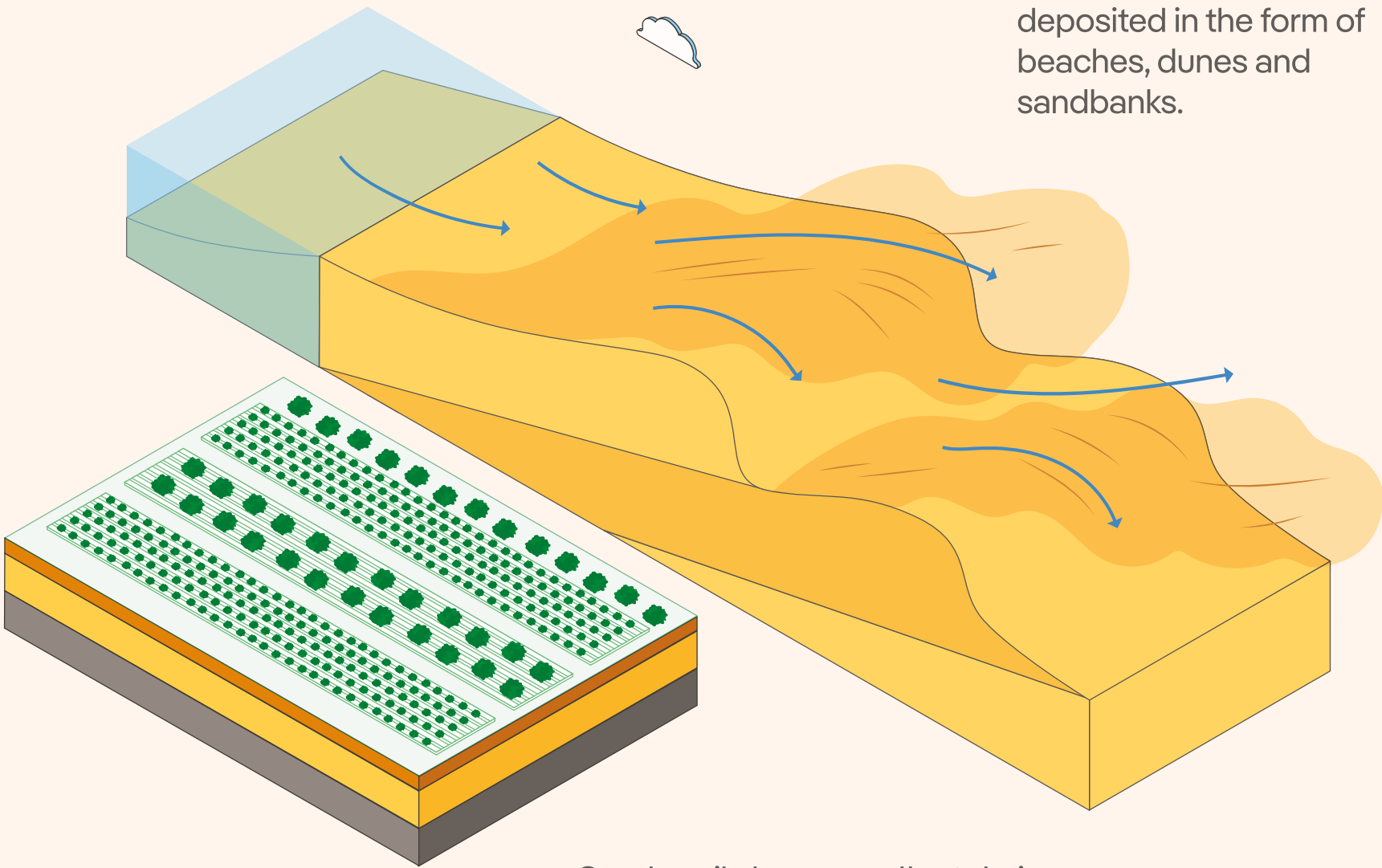


Very rounded

Sand on the beach contains quartz, volcanic glass, olivine, garnet, basalt, as well as different magnetic minerals.

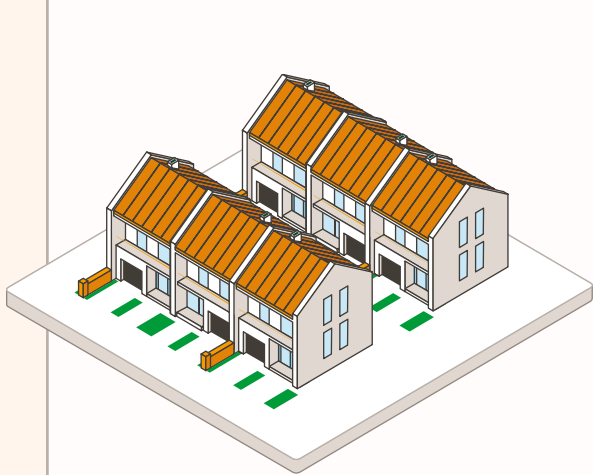


Sand is transported by wind and water, and deposited in the form of beaches, dunes and sandbanks.

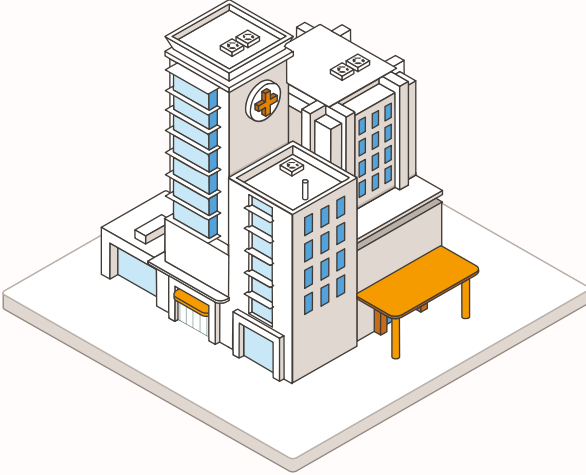


Sandy soils have excellent drainage characteristics, which is why they are normally used for intensive agriculture.

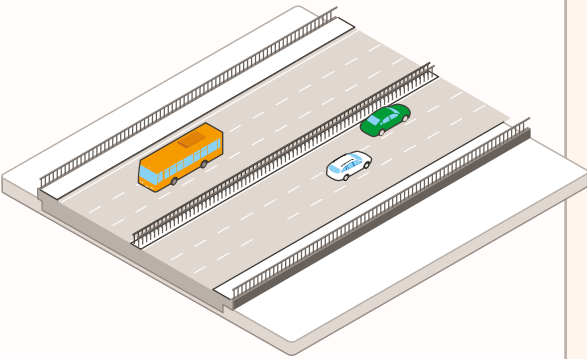
The world average consumption has reached 50 billion tons of sand per year, and about 30 billion tons are destined for the manufacture of reinforced concrete.



It is estimated that 200 tons of sand are needed to build a medium-sized house.



A hospital, 3,000 tons.



And, to build just one kilometre of motorway, 30,000 kilos of sand are required.