One common observation about porosity of sandstones is that quartz-rich sands are more likely to preserve their porosity, whereas sands less rich in quartz (less mature sands) lose their porosity more readily as a function of depth. This page extends that thought to the context of plate tectonics, because quartz-rich sands are more common along passive continental margins and sands poorer in quartz are more common along active continental margins.

The sand images shown are from the Beach and Shoreline Sands From Around the World website and were generated in 2004 by Beth Kennair.