

Synopsis

What is the difference between a rock and a gem? What makes the Hope Diamond so special? Why are some minerals fluorescent? Dig deep to find the answers in *The Rock and Gem Book*. Filled with over 1,200 stunning full-color photographs, *The Rock and Gem Book* is the perfect encyclopedia for young geologists to consult. Chapters are organized according to scientific classifications with straightforward explanations that bring each specimen to life. From the quartz in watches to the limestone in the Great Pyramids, the earth's natural treasures are used in architecture, art, and science. Get up close to diamonds, rubies, pearls, and sapphires, and study the different types of rocks, from granite to meteorites. Designed in DK's signature style, the pages are filled with highly visual spreads that show off the depth and unique quality of each gemstone, rock, and fossil. See the past with fossils, learn about the ocean through shells, and find out what makes gold so special in *The Rock and Gem Book*.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

[View larger](#) [The Hope Diamond](#) The French jeweler Pierre Cartier designed the Hope Diamond's modern setting for Evalyn Walsh McLean in 1920. It is set in platinum, surrounded by 16 white diamonds, suspended in a chain made of 45 diamonds.

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[Decorative Stones](#)

Decorative stones are colored minerals that look beautiful when polished. Although only a few are rare, they are at times more highly valued than precious metals. Under the Ice We do not often think of ice as a mineral, but it meets all the criteria—it occurs naturally, is not formed by living things, is solid, and has a regular, internal crystal arrangement. Mineral Salts Mineral salts, or halides, are a group of sometimes brightly colored minerals that form when metals pair up with one of the halogen elements—fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine. Cave of Crystals The Cueva de los Cristales, or Cave of Crystals, was filled floor to ceiling with monumental gypsum crystals that had grown undisturbed for millions of years.

Mask of Gold When Tutankhamen, the young pharaoh of Egypt, died suddenly at the age of 19 around 1327 BCE, his body was placed within three gold-lined coffins, nestling inside each other like Russian dolls. View larger

View larger View larger View larger View larger Jasper Falls The dappled sunlight shining through the jungle foliage sparkles on the semiprecious stone, creating a stunningly beautiful wonder of nature. Volcanic Rocks Volcanic, or extrusive igneous, rocks are born of fire. Magma hits the surface at temperatures of 2,190° F (1,200° C). Bubbling and fizzing with dissolved gas, it explodes violently through volcanoes or oozes slowly from a vent or a fissure. Spectacular Spring This kaleidoscope of colors is caused by different types of bacteria living in each of the temperature zones and by the presence of certain minerals (such as sulfur). Ruby and Sapphire Rubies are red, sapphires are blue, but both are made of the same mineral—corundum. Impurities give these aluminum oxide minerals their colors.

The First Land Animals About 395 millions years ago, tetrapods (animals with four limbs) evolved from fish. These would be the first vertebrates to move from water to land. The study of fossils has helped scientists understand how animals adapted to live in this new environment. View larger

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