



Gemkids[®] JOURNAL

First Edition



Sapphire ('SAF-ire')

Sapphire is a variety of the mineral corundum
and is September's birthstone.



GIA[®]

Cool Colors



Blue Sapphire

The most common and well-known color of sapphire is blue.



Parti-Colored Sapphire

Some sapphires show several different colors in one stone.



Color-Change Sapphire

Some stones show color change under different types of light.

Fun Facts

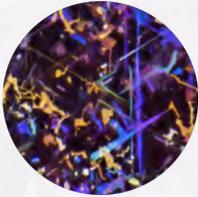


Inclusion: A characteristic found in a gemstone, such as other minerals, fractures, gas bubbles, or even insects.

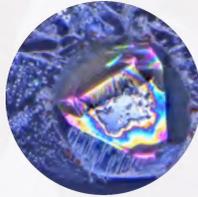
Asterism: When exposed to light, some gems display a star-shaped pattern that appears to float on the surface. This phenomenon, or visual effect, is known as asterism. It is caused by microscopic needle-like inclusions.

A Look Inside Sapphires

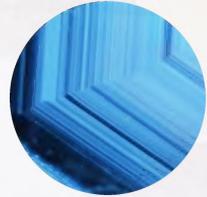
Photomicrograph: A zoomed-in picture of a gemstone taken using a very powerful microscope.



Needle-like inclusions inside a sapphire are responsible for asterism.



This sapphire is filled with other minerals, which reflect a rainbow of light.



These lines create sharp cornered bands in a sapphire.

History

For centuries, sapphire has been associated with royalty and romance. Ancient Greeks and Romans believed that blue sapphires protected them from envy and harm.

Sapphires and rubies were once considered two different minerals by Europeans, but Southeast Asians recognized that they shared many of the same physical properties. In 1802, rubies and sapphires were formally classified as the same mineral, corundum.





Fancy-Color Sapphire

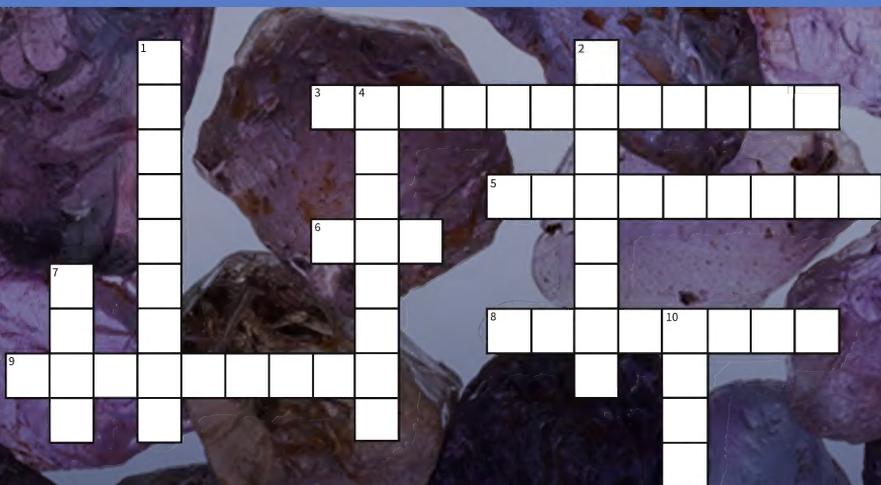
The corundum family also includes “fancy sapphires.” They come in orange, yellow, green, pink, violet, purple, black, or colorless. Red corundum is considered a different gem—ruby!



Padparadscha: These sapphires are a rare orangy pink color and are named after the lotus blossom.

Hardness: Hardness refers to a gemstone’s resistance to scratching. Sapphire is a 9 out of 10 on the Mohs hardness scale.

Crossword



DOWN

1. Characteristic found inside a gemstone.
2. The gem variety of corundum that comes in every color except red.
4. A visual effect that appears as a star on the surface of a gem.
7. The most common and well-known color of sapphire.
10. Sapphire’s hardness on the Mohs hardness scale.

ACROSS

3. An orangy pink sapphire named after a lotus flower.
5. Sapphire is the birthstone of this month.
6. You will never find a sapphire in this color.
8. Sapphire and ruby are both varieties of this mineral.
9. The group of people who thought that sapphire and ruby were different minerals.

Sapphire Around the World



True or False?

- _____ Sapphires come in every color of the rainbow.
- _____ The most popular color of sapphire is green.
- _____ Some sapphires can display a star.
- _____ Sapphires are only mined in North America.
- _____ Sapphire is the birthstone of September.

Answer Keys

- ACROSS
- 3. padparadscha
 - 5. September
 - 6. red
 - 8. corundum
 - 9. Europeans
- DOWN
- 1. inclusion
 - 2. sapphire
 - 4. asterism
 - 7. blue
 - 10. nine
1. False, 2. False, 3. True, 4. False, 5. True



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