

Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society Bismarck, ND



Amethyst



Amethyst is a purple variant of quartz (yellow = citrine, green = prasiolite), with its color coming from iron impurities. Its name comes from the Greek “a” (not) and “methystos” (intoxicated), stemming from the belief that the stone protected against intoxication, it was also thought that the stone would make a person more clear-headed. Amethyst can be found world - wide, With large deposits found in Brazil, South Korea, Austria, Russia and numerous other countries. Before large deposits were found, this stone used to be lumped with diamonds, rubies and sapphires for its rarity and preciousness. With a hardness of 7 on the Mohs scale, it makes a good gemstone—fortunate, as it is the birthstone for February. Cutting the stone properly can be challenging. The crystals do not often have a uniform concentration of color, but vary in shades of purple and mauve. These crystals are often found in geodes - some of which are massive in size.



The chemical formula is: SiO_2

Kunz, George F. The Curious Lore of Precious Stones, New York: Halcyon House, Blue Ribbon, 1930. Print

<http://www.gemdat.org/gem-198.html>

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“Gemstones, A Jewelry Maker’s Guide To Identifying & Using Beautiful Rocks” by Judith Crowe Copyright 1919, published In North America by Interweave.