

# ROCKS & GEMSTONES

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

### GEMSTONES

A gemstone is usually a mineral, but it is one that has formed crystals and then been cut and polished professionally to be made into a piece of jewellery. The study of gemstones is called gemology. Gemstones are usually measured by their hardness, size, and rarity. Unpolished gemstones simply look like ordinary rocks; cutting and polishing allows them to have brilliance and sometimes color (leading to their value) that can't be found in other types of stones.



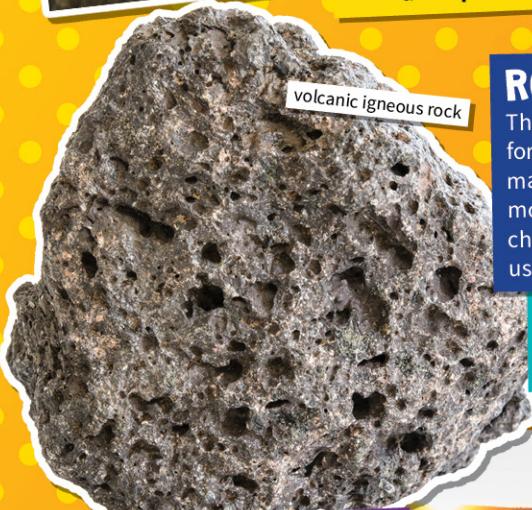
Gemstones are usually classified as semiprecious and precious stones.



Some semiprecious gemstones include amethyst, garnet, citrine, turquoise, and opal.



Precious gemstones include diamond, emerald, ruby, and sapphire.



### ROCKS

The scientific term for rocks is petrology and understanding them is crucial for understanding the formation and mineral makeup of the earth. Rocks are made from minerals and can come in every size: They can be tiny pebbles or mountains big enough on which to climb or drive. Rocks do not have a special chemical or mineral makeup. While most rocks are not cut or polished to be used as gemstones, some rocks, including lapis lazuli, are classified as gems.

The Earth's crust is made up of many different types of rocks. All rocks contain at least one mineral. These rocks are transformed over many, many years by water, wind, pressure and other minerals.

### MINING

Many rocks and gemstones are mined every single day. The first thing you might think of is rocks that are used in jewellery but we also mine rocks for things like metal to make things like aluminium which makes the tin foil we use when cooking or sandstone slabs we use for building.

