

Amazonite



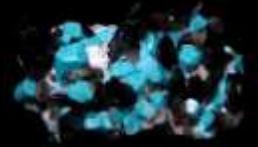
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History/Background

Amazonite is an opaque to semi-translucent gemstone variety of green microcline - a feldspar mineral. It displays a schiller of light, which is caused by the stone's crystal structure. Orthoclase feldspar and albite are present in close association arranged in layers. This causes an interference effect of light. It is usually light-green to blue-green, modeled and sometimes contains light striations. It is found in the United States, Brazil, Russia, Australia, Namibia and Zimbabwe. The name is taken from the Amazon River, from which certain green stones were formerly obtained, but it is doubtful whether green feldspar occurs in the Amazon area.

Geology /Properties

A polymorph of orthoclase with a triclinic crystal structure, microcline is formed in deep-seated igneous rocks that cooled slowly. It is found in granites, granite pegmatites, hydro-thermal veins and in many types of schist. Microcline can form the largest crystals of any known mineral and large specimens come to the market reasonably often. Single crystals from granite pegmatites can weigh several tons and reach dozens of yards in length. It often forms crystals in association with quartz known as graphic granite. It gets its green colour from small impurities of lead. Microcline can also occur in yellow, pink, red and grey but they are very rarely seen in gem quality.



By Exceptional Minerals



By David K. Joyce Minerals

Refractive index	1.52 – 1.53
Hardness	5.5 – 6.5Mohs scale
Specific gravity	2.54 – 2.57
Crystal System	Triclinic
Crystal Habit	Short-prismatic
Fracture	Conchoidal
Luster	Vitreous



By Irocks

Synthetics/Imitations/Treatments

There are no synthetic amazonites, and treatments are not used on them. It can be imitated by plastic or glass.

Evaluation and Use

Amazonite is usually cut as a cabochon with a rounded or convex polished surface, but it can also be carved or faceted.

Cleaning/Care

The safest way to clean amazonite jewelry is in lukewarm soapy water.



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Metaphysical/Astrological Properties

Amazonite is the astrological sign of the Virgo and vibrates to the number 5. It soothes all chakras and is particularly rejuvenating to the heart center and throat chakra. It enhances communications concerning love. It aligns the physical body with the astral bodies producing a balancing and preventative energy. This attribute makes it a lovely stone to carry, wear or use for general health maintenance. It can balance male/female energies, bringing forth the qualities of clarity, clear spirit and balancing or the many aspects of one's personality. It also enhances creative expression and improves self-worth. It is called "the hope stone", because it inspires confidence and hope. It was used extensively by the Egyptians, calling it the "stone of courage".



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