



Gems and Minerals

The Asheville Museum of Science has an awesome gem and mineral collection, called the Colburn collection, which was donated by Burham Standish Colburn. This collection founded our preceding museums, the Colburn Memorial Museum and the Colburn Earth Science Museum.

We love gems and minerals so much at AMOS that we want to share some cool websites for you guys to learn more about gems and minerals!

Learn all about gems and how they are used in jewelry: <https://gemkids.gia.edu/>

Learn about different minerals and see pictures of amazing specimens: <https://www.minerals.net/>

See if you recognize some of these rocks!: <https://geology.com/rocks/>

Challenge activities:

1. Go to <https://gemkids.gia.edu/> and find your birthstone. Draw a picture of it. Then go to <https://www.minerals.net/>, and look for your birthstone in the “Gemstone Guide.” Learn about how rare your birthstone might be, as well as what objects in can sometimes be used in that you might have at home! Share them with AMOS on Facebook and Instagram!
2. Go outside and look for some rocks, or check in your own collection. Do you know what you found? Go to <https://geology.com/rocks/> and see if you can match up your rock with one of the rocks on the website. Read all about how that rock formed and how it can be used!