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North carolina gemstone guide with pictures full



Gemstone guide with pictures. North carolina gem identification. North carolina gemstone hunting.

The districts were also diverse in terms of population density and size, (i.e., rural vs. Gold. Some silver production was reported from 1954 to 1963, but the metal is of minor importance to the state. First discovered in 1869, zircon was rediscovered in the 1880s as a component in gas mantles and electric lighting, but deposits are of no commercial importance. Closely associated with olivine, it can be found in the western counties, particularly Macon and the Swannanoa area of Buncombe. Blood-red gem variety of corundum. Major production began in 1942 near King's Mountain in Cleveland County. Element essential to the production of nuclear energy, existing in potential reserves of 5-10 million pounds in the Wilson Creek gneiss and Grandfather Mountain Formation in the western counties of Avery and Caldwell. Mined as cassiterite (tin oxide), occurring in pegmatites and as alluvial deposits. Used in ceramics, insecticides, and other products, pyrophyllite was first identified in 1856 in Moore County. Quartz. Feldspar. Between 1900 and 1926 rhodolite was mined on Sugarloaf Mountain in Jackson County for use as an abrasive. This program was supported by CDC's State Public Health Actions to Prevent and Control Diabetes, Heart Disease, Obesity, and Associated Risk Factors and Promote School Health cooperative agreement (DP13-1305). Dark, nodular mineral found in the coastal counties. Abundant group of aluminum silicates found commercially in pegmatites and feldspar-rich granitic rocks called "alaskite." Important in the glass and ceramics industries, the first feldspar was mined as early as 1744 in present-day Macon County; systematic exploitation began late in the nineteenth century. Pink variety of garnet unique in North America to North Carolina. Much of it is too broken by jointing to be good as a dimension stone, but in 1902 the National Marble Company was in operation at Regal, shipping blocks to Canton, Ga., for finishing work. Thorium. Soapstone. Its nonflammable character found applications in insulation (shingles and siding) and served other heat-resistant needs (firefighters' products). Exploited as early as 1585, when Roanoke Island explorers reported its use by Indians, copper was first mined commercially in Granville County in 1852 (one of the first such mines in the nation). Since then North Carolina has become the second-highest phosphate producer in the nation (the state's sole producer is Texasgulf, Inc.). Southeast Macon County's Tennesse Creek was originally operated by Tiffany and Company of New York around 1900. Sedimentary rock formed mainly of quartz grains, quarried for dimension stone beginning in the late nineteenth century (when "brownstone" was popular) in counties such as Anson, Lee, Montgomery, Stokes, Burke, and Wilkes. Ruby. Diamond. Chromium. The last North Carolina diamond was found in 1893 at King's Mountain. One of the most widespread minerals, found in all classes of rock. Element found as sulfides such as chalcocite, chalcopyrite, and bornite in the mountain belt (Ashe, Jackson, Swain, and Haywood Counties), Guilford, Granville, and Person Counties, and other areas throughout the state. Marble. Cubic zirconia, from zirconium dioxide, has a brilliance that challenges natural diamonds. Green gem variety of beryl, first found in Alexander County in 1874 and later in Mitchell County in 1894-95. In 1982 three companies—Texasgulf, Billiton (Royal Dutch/Shell subsidiary), and asarco inc.—were all engaged in explorations for cassiterite in southern Rutherford County. Violet quartz gemstone colored by inclusions of hematite or other minerals, found in Stokes, Burke, Lincoln, Iredell, Moore, Warren, and Franklin Counties. Soapstone has been found in about a third of the counties, but deposits have generally been too small and erratic for commercialization. A large deposit in Vance County (first reported in 1890) prompted the building of the Tungsten Queen Mine in 1942. In 1973 the emerald was adopted as the state's official gemstone. Olivine. Discovered in Macon County in 1871, aquamarine (blue beryl) and golden beryl were mined in Mitchell County in the early 1900s; by the end of the century, Macon County's Littlefield Mine and Yancey County's Ray Mine continued to produce modest amounts for amateur collectors. The mining of anthophyllite (used as asbestos) remained a minor industry in Yancey through the late 1970s. (accessed December 6, 2012). Mining began in 1871 in Macon County, where corundum soon found greater application as an abrasive than a gemstone. Pyrophyllite. Rhodolite. Phosphate. Soft, slippery rock containing talc (a hydrous magnesium silicate). In 1969 the Rist Mine yielded the largest crystal seen in North America, a 1,438 carat piece; a 13.14 carat "Carolina Emerald" also was acquired by Tiffany and Company of New York. North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey Bulletin No.12: The History of the Gems Found in North Carolina. Quartz (silicon dioxide) comes in many varieties, such as milky quartz. The industry, though never flourishing, continued until 1962. Though asbestos was reported in Wilkes and Polk Counties by 1900, production in Yancey County in 1919 was among the highest in the nation that year. Zircon is often flawed by the radioactivity of trace elements, but some crystals are heat-treated to gain bright, desirable colors. It was commercially produced in the Spruce Pine district southeast of Burnsville from 1934 to 1944 for use as a refractory. It is chiefly of interest to collectors, since it makes a colorful polished stone. Considerable reserves remain. Alteration product of hydrothermal activity on magnesium and iron mica. Asbestos. Hard, malleable metal (found as tungstates) with great tensile strength. A novel gem that sold well above its real value, hidden (later hiddenite) was exhibited at the Charleston Exposition in 1901-2. Zircon. The Spruce Pine area mines of Deer Park and Chalk Mountain helped North Carolina become the nation's leading feldspar producer, a position held since 1917. Kyanite. A mixture of 2/3 pyrope garnet to 1/3 almandine garnet, it was named for its color's resemblance to the blooms of rhododendron. Mica. In 1921 a processing plant was built near Robbins on what proved to be the largest deposit in the state and the only underground workings. The 1880s saw the largest emerald at that time, an eight-and-one-half-inch crystal. North Carolina is the nation's largest domestic producer, with mines in Moore and Orange Counties. In 1958 a vast deposit was discovered in Beaufort County and christened the "Pungo River Formation" in 1964. The Cowee Valley in Macon County, site of the first efforts to recover the gemstone from gravel in 1895, yielded only flawed rubies. Rare minerals containing uranium (torbernite, gummite, autunite, and uraninite) can be found in Mitchell County. Precious metal found as grains and nuggets in the middle and western counties. Sapphires were first mined regularly at the Corundum Hill Mine in Macon County in 1871, then in Jackson County in 1892 (400 tons yielded 25 percent nearly pure crystals). Hiddenite. Together, Gaston and Cleveland Counties contain more than 80 percent of the known reserves in the nation, and in 1980 North Carolina produced over 50 percent of the world's estimated output. Argillite. Unakite. These efforts have taken various shapes across the districts. The Wilmington Post Office, Moore County Courthouse, and early buildings on the campus of North Carolina State University in Raleigh all contain sandstone. By 1895 nearly all of the corundum produced and used in the United States came from the counties west of the Blue Ridge, though the use of artificial abrasives after 1900 brought an end to the industry. Castle Hayne north of Wilmington has produced phosphate rock commercially since about 1900, when the mineral was manufactured into fertilizer. Crystalline form of limestone, found in a narrow belt centered on Murphy in Cherokee County. Lithium. Thirteen diamonds have been reported from the region, beginning in 1843 with a 1.33 carat octahedral crystal from Brindletown Creek Ford in Burke County. The largest, discovered in 1886, was a 4.33 carat green-gray crystal from Dysartville in McDowell County (now in the American Museum of Natural History in New York). Aluminum silicate, often in flattened blue crystals, found in metamorphic rock and some pegmatites. Pale pink rhodolite was reported in Asheville in 1893 and discovered in 1895 during mining for ruby corundum in the Cowee Valley. Found in the mountains, deposits of olivine rock were known as early as 1875 as "crysolitic sandstone" and later as "olivine" or "dunite." Beginning in the 1930s olivine has been used as a basic refractory in the steel industry and as a molding sand in foundry work. Tin. Used for its insulating properties and as a packing material, vermiculite was of little interest before 1933, when a small industry developed in the state. For healthy eating and nutrition support, liaisons selected from a list of 10 CDC-recommended, evidence-based strategies for supporting healthy food and nutrition in schools. Raleigh [N.C.]: E.M. Uzzell & Co. 1907. Silky, fibrous form of silicate minerals first discovered in 1871. After mining between 1880 and 1900 and during both world wars, chromite came to be considered a reserve mineral. Other mines such as the Connally and Rhodes Mines also operated in Macon County. Grass-green gemstone and variety of spodumene unique to Alexander County, where it was discovered in 1880. The selected districts, with input from the Division of Public Health, hired five Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) liaisons to implement strategies that improve healthy eating and physical activity in targeted schools in their respective districts. Notable sapphires, such as a 1,025 carat blue star sapphire found near Canton in 1888, have been found on occasion, and tourists still enjoy searching through buckets from old sapphire mines with screens and sluces. The community of Salem Church changed its name to Hiddenite in its honor and is now home to the Hiddenite Center, an important folk and cultural arts center. Group of aluminum silicates occurring in the Blue Ridge Mountains and western piedmont, notable for its

perfect cleavage into thin, elastic sheets. During the Civil War it produced lead for bullets and was worked intermittently for silver, lead, and zinc until 1898. Soft white silicate associated with the metavolcanic sedimentary rock of the Carolina slate belt. Copper. The districts were selected on the basis of the prevalence of chronic disease, students receiving free and reduced lunch, and other socioeconomic markers. Fine-grained, gray-to-dark colored sedimentary rock. Vermiculite. It was recognized in gold mines as early as 1875 in Cabarrus County and reevaluated there in 1956 by the Carolina Tungsten Company. Silver. Corundum. Rock crystal, a glass-clear variety, is sought by collectors in the western counties; one Ashe County piece (now in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art) was displayed at the 1900 Paris Exposition. The hardest known mineral, found only rarely in western North Carolina. Mining continued up to 1971, although little gold was found after 1900. Uranium. Precious metal mined in North Carolina as a secondary product to gold and copper. Avery, Mitchell, Yancey, and Cleveland Counties produce quartz sand for industrial use. Discovered in 1883 near King's Mountain, cassiterite remains a widespread but uneconomical reserve throughout the Cleveland-Gaston-Lincoln Counties area. Used early on as a form of window glass (called isinglass), mica was first mined in Mitchell County in 1858 and in Jackson County in 1867. Mined from sediments in a belt covering Alexander, Burke, Catawba, Cleveland, Iredell, Lincoln, and Rutherford Counties from 1886 to 1910, thorium enjoyed a period of demand as a necessary component of the Welsbach incandescent gaslight. Gem corundum of any color except blood-red (reserved for the ruby). The North Carolina Division of Public Health, working with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, identified five school districts in the state to implement a program to improve healthy eating and physical activity in North Carolina Public Schools. Keep reading >>References "Plate No. III." Kunz, George Frederick. Kyanite has continued to interest mineral collectors, and occasionally gem-grade material is found. In 1980 three active companies were reported in Cherokee County. Tungsten. North Carolina produces two-thirds of the nation's scrap mica, which found numerous industrial uses in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Impact The HEAL liaisons identified a minimum of three schools within their districts for intervention. A form of aluminum oxide, second only to the diamond in hardness, found in Madison County in 1846. With the first authenticated discovery in 1799 in Cabarrus County (followed by finds in Stanly, Union, Davidson, Guilford, and Randolph Counties), North Carolina produced the nation's gold supply from 1803 to 1848. For the physical activity support, each of the liaisons were required to use the CSPAP model to identify a physical activity leader and establish a wellness team to promote physical activity and physical education in their classes. Sapphire. The Indians used soapstone, or talc, to carve utensils; early settlers shaped it into sills and wainscoting. Emerald. North Carolina is the nation's major olivine producer, with mines in Jackson, Mitchell, and Yancey Counties. Very hard mineral (beryllium aluminum silicate) found in granitic rocks and pegmatites. Pale green igneous rock with a sandy texture. Derived from the rare mineral monazite (thorium phosphate) and found in alluvial deposits called black sands. Element used in aluminum making, glass, ceramics, greases, and other products, mined from pegmatites as spodumene in Cleveland, Gaston, and Lincoln Counties. Found as chromite (chromium oxide) in olivine-rich rock called "dunite." Known to exist since 1870, chromite is found in Yancey County's Day Book Mine and in Buncombe County's Democrat Mine, as well as in deposits in Iredell, Macon, and Jackson Counties. Though the ruby industry never enjoyed the success of corundum, tourists can still purchase buckets of gravel with sluices and sieves to search the contents for rubies. Amethyst. Igneous rock found in Madison and Mitchell Counties as narrow veins of green epidote with red feldspar and quartz in schistose granite. Mineral found as a silicate of the rare element zirconium. Sandstone. The stone was also used to line the fireplaces in the State Capitol and many private homes because of its ability to hold heat for a considerable time. "Plate No. 1." Kunz, George Frederick. The modern-day Silver Hill Mine opened as the Kings Mine in 1838 in Davidson County near Lexington and later operated as the Washington Silver Mine between 1840 and 1855. Beryl. Some liaisons have focused on increased physical activity within the classroom, while others have put more emphasis on professional development for teachers on techniques for promoting active recess, creating walking clubs, and using school walking trails. By the 1980s argillite (such as that quarried in Davidson County) was becoming widely used in the hearths of manufactured homes and in prefabricated fireplaces. The liaisons worked with the schools to complete the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's assessment each year, write action plans that included at least one healthy eating or nutrition-related support as an objective, and implement the Comprehensive School Physical Activity Program (CSPAP) approach to support physical activity and physical education.

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