

IOLITE

According to legend, Vikings used iolite slices to reduce glare when checking the sun's position.



ABOUT IOLITE



In legends, ancient Viking navigators used thin slices of iolite as filters to help locate the sun on cloudy days. Whether or not the tales are true, iolite (mineralogists call it cordierite) can be fashioned into beautiful gems.

Strongly pleochroic iolite has been incorrectly called "water sapphire," as it can display a blue to violet hue in one direction and pale yellow to colorless in another.

BIRTHSTONES & ANNIVERSARIES

Iolite is the gemstone for the twenty-first wedding anniversary.

TREATMENTS

There are a number of processes used to alter the color, apparent clarity, or improve the durability of gems.

SYNTHETICS

Some gemstones have synthetic counterparts that have essentially the same chemical, physical, and optical properties, but are grown by man in a laboratory.

IMITATIONS

Any gem can be imitated—sometimes by manmade materials or by natural materials chosen by man to impersonate a particular gem.

IOS

Iolite's name is from the Greek word *ios*, meaning violet.

PLEOCHROIC

When you turn iolite, you'll see three distinct colors in three crystal directions.

AU NATURAL

Iolite is not typically treated. This is an attractive selling point for some consumers.

FACTS

MINERAL: Iolite (Cordierite)

CHEMISTRY: $Mg_2Al_4Si_5O_{18}$

Color: Violetish blue (pleochroic colorless-yellow)

REFRACTIVE INDEX: 1.542 – 1.551

SPECIFIC GRAVITY: 2.61

MOHS HARDNESS: 7.0 – 7.5

BIREFRINGENCE: +0.045, -0.011



WHY WE LOVE THIS GEMSTONE

STUNNING COLOR

In its best colors, iolite can rival the beauty of tanzanite but at a fraction of the cost.

PHENOMENAL

Usually transparent, iolite sometimes contains inclusions that cause attractive phenomena.

IRON

Iolite's beautiful violet-to-blue hue is due to the presence of iron in its structure.