

MOONSTONE

A ghostly sheen moves under the surface of this feldspar, like moonlight glowing in water.



ABOUT MOONSTONE



Moonstone is a variety of the feldspar-group mineral orthoclase. During formation, orthoclase and albite separate into alternating layers. When light falls between these thin layers it is scattered producing the phenomenon called adularescence.

Adularescence is the light that appears to billow across a gem. Other feldspar minerals can also show adularescence including labradorite and sanidine.

BIRTHSTONES & ANNIVERSARIES

Moonstone is a birthstone for June, along with pearl and alexandrite.

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.



WHY WE LOVE THIS GEMSTONE

RARITY

Rare in top qualities, this ethereal gem derives from one of the earth's most common minerals.

ADULARESCENCE

Stacked layers of orthoclase and albite diffract light, creating moonstone's adularescence.

ANOTHER PHENOMENA

Besides adularescence, moonstone sometimes also shows a cat's-eye effect.

ADULARESCENCE

Moonstone's unearthly glow is caused by light scattering between microscopic layers of feldspar.

60%

The minerals in the feldspar family make up more than half of the Earth's rocky crust.

0.5 MICRONS

Feldspar layers that create moonstone's sheen are similar to the size of a wavelength of light.

FACTS

MINERAL: Feldspar

CHEMISTRY: $KAlSi_3O_8$

COLOR: Colorless to White, Gray, Green, Peach, Brown

REFRACTIVE INDEX: 1.518 to 1.526

SPECIFIC GRAVITY: 2.58

MOLHS HARDNESS: 6.0 to 6.5

BIREFRINGENCE: 0.05 to 0.008

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