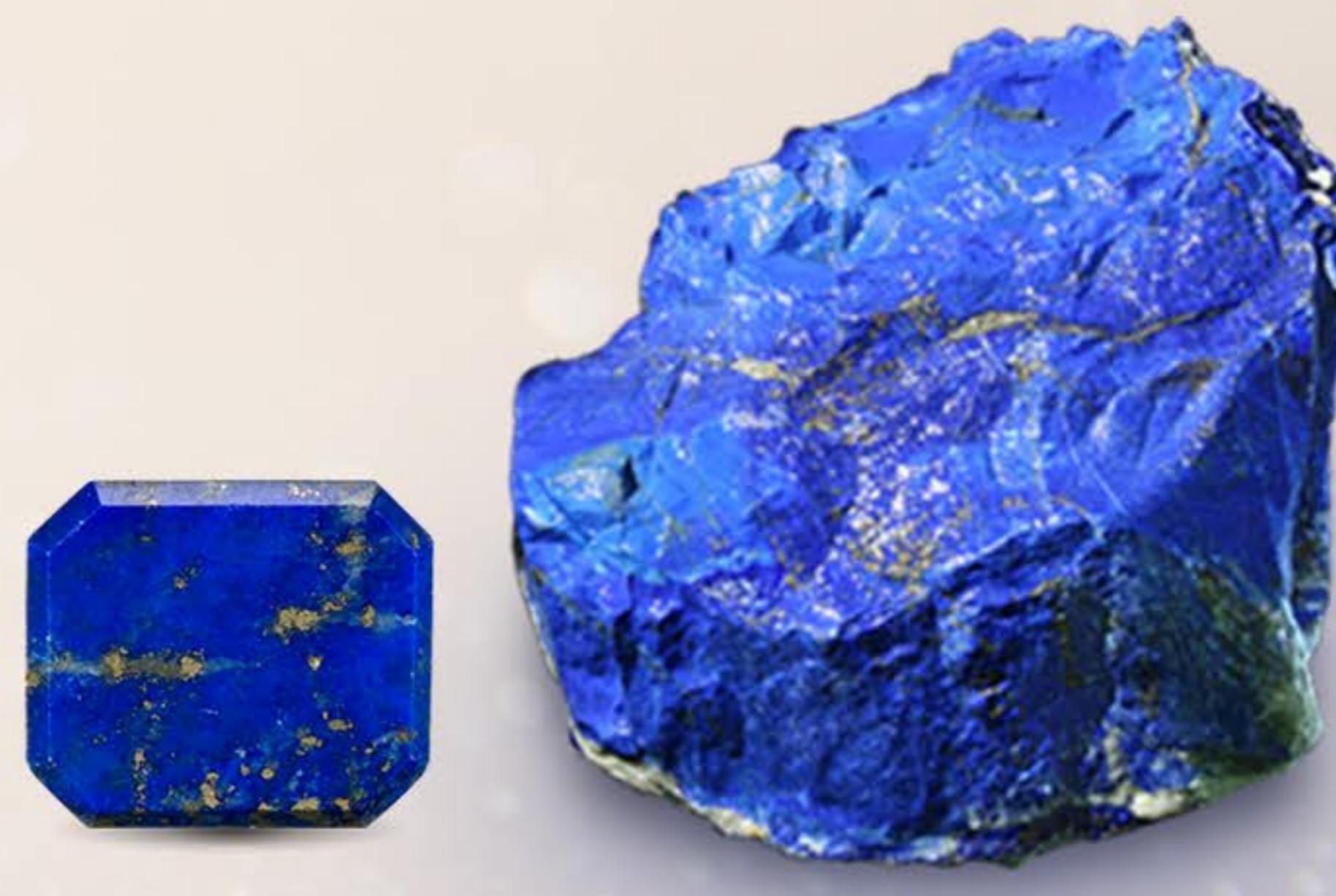


# LAPIS LAZULI

Lapis is a beautiful rock; an aggregate of several minerals, mainly lazurite, calcite, and pyrite



## ABOUT LAPIS LAZULI



This ancient rock is an aggregate of several minerals. The three major minerals that comprise lapis are lazurite, calcite, and pyrite. The rock can also contain lesser amounts of diopside, amphibole, feldspar, or mica. Lazurite is the ingredient responsible for producing the gem's most prized color—bright royal blue.

### ANCIENT

Lapis was treasured by the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, Greece, and Rome.

### GLITTER

Golden flecks of pyrite create a sparkle in lapis lazuli.

### MARCO POLO

In 1271, Marco Polo described ancient Bactria's lapis mines.

## BIRTHSTONES & ANNIVERSARIES

Not consider as a birthstone.

### FACTS

**MINERAL:** Rock

**CHEMISTRY:** An aggregate

**COLOR:** Greenish blue to violetish blue

**REFRACTIVE INDEX:** 1.500, sometimes 1.670

**SPECIFIC GRAVITY:** 2.75 (+/- 0.25)

**MOHS HARDNESS:** None

**BIREFRINGENCE:** None

## TREATMENTS

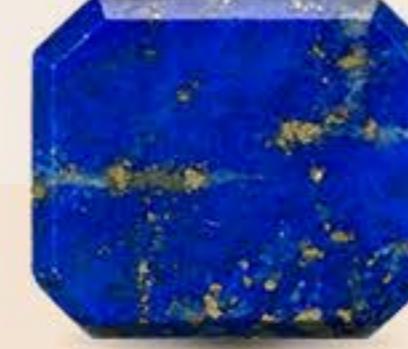
There are a number of processes used to alter the color, apparent clarity, or improve the durability of gems.

## 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

### EXQUISITE COLOR

From ancient times to the present, many civilizations have prized lapis lazuli for its exquisite deep blue color.

### 6,500 YEARS

Scholars of ancient civilizations believe that the link between man and lapis lazuli stretches back beyond 6,500 years.

### ULTRAMARINE

Renaissance painters used lapis to make "ultramarine" blue, an expensive pigment of unrivaled brightness and stability.