

JADE

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



ABOUT JADE



Jade has its cultural roots in the smoke-dimmed caves and huts that sheltered prehistoric humans.

Around the world, Stone Age workers shaped this toughest of gems into weapons, tools, ornaments, and ritual objects. Their carvings invoked the powers of heaven and earth and mystic forces of life and death.

BIRTHSTONES & ANNIVERSARIES

Jade is the official gem for the 12th 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.

CONFUCIUS

The philosopher wrote that jade is like virtue and its brightness represents heaven.

BI

The traditional jade flat disc with a hole in the middle, known as a "bi," symbolizes heaven.

YU

The character for jade is one of the oldest in written Chinese, dating to 2950 BC.

FACTS

MINERAL: Jadeite and Nephrite

CHEMISTRY: $\text{NaAlSi}_2\text{O}_6$ and $\text{Ca}_2(\text{Mg},\text{Fe})_5\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$

Color: Green, white, orange, yellow, lavender, black

REFRACTIVE INDEX: 1.666 to 1.680 (+/-0.008) and 1.606 to 1.632 (+0.009, 0.006)

SPECIFIC GRAVITY: 3.34 and 2.95

MOHS HARDNESS: 6.5 to 7 and 6.0 to 6.5



WHY WE LOVE THIS GEMSTONE

INTERACTION WITH LIGHT

Jadeite's structure scatters light. If properly cut, a white piece with a small green spot will make the gem appear completely green if lit from behind.

TOUGH, BUT NOT HARD

Not unusually hard for a gem, both jade types are extremely tough. Neolithic knives and axe heads were often made of nephrite.

MUSICAL JADE

Nephrite rings musically when struck. The imperial court in China had jade wind chimes designed to ring specific notes.