Module B. Colour from the Cosmos

Lesson 14: Beryl Mineralogy and Gemology

What are Beryl's Imitations?

Like with synthetic stones, aquamarine is not typically imitated because it is abundant enough and does not have a high enough demand to warrant imitations. Emeralds, however, have always been subject to imitation. Perhaps the most common deceit is simply green glass, or thin wafers of real emerald glued with green glass or colourless beryl. Other minerals are sometimes marketed as emerald, such as peridot or green diopside, but investigation of the stone's physical properties will always reveal its true identity.