Module B. Colour from the Cosmos

Lesson 15: Beryl Geology and Geography

Where is it Mined Globally?

Emeralds are primarily produced from smaller operations in remote regions, typically in developing countries. Colombia supplies an estimated 60% of the world's emeralds with most of the reported balance coming from Zambia, Brazil, and Zimbabwe. Unfortunately, many of the countries that could produce emerald have unstable political environments and as a result unmonitored artisanal mining and smuggling is common.

Commercially produced aquamarine comes primarily from Afghanistan and Brazil, although Madagascar also produces significant quantities of gem beryl and is becoming a more significant global source.