Search for cullinan diamond

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cullinan\_Diamond  
  
**TITLE:** Cullinan Diamond  
**META DESCRIPTION:**   
**META KEYWORDS:   
H1**Cullinan Diamond,  **H2**Contents, Discovery and early history[edit], Diamonds cut from the Cullinan[edit], See also[edit], Further reading[edit], References[edit], Bibliography[edit], External links[edit], Navigation menu,  **BOLD/STRONG:** Cullinan Diamond, ^, a, b, ^, a, b, c, d, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, a, b, c, a, b, ^, ^, ^, a, b, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, a, b, c, d, e, f, g, ^, 2, ^, a, b, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, a, b, ^, ^, a, b, ^, ^, 2, 99, 42, 354,  **Italic: :** Diamond: A Journey to the Heart of an Obsession, Famous Diamonds, Important Diamonds of the World, a, b, a, b, c, d, a, b, c, a, b, Measuring Worth, MeasuringWorth, The Sydney Morning Herald, a, b, Parliamentary Debates (Hansard), Time, a, b, c, d, e, f, g, Gem & Jewellery News, Royal Collection Trust, a, b, MeasuringWorth, Measuring Worth, Royal Collection Trust, a, b, a, b, Famous Diamonds, The Larousse Encyclopedia of Precious Gems, Diamonds and Clay, Diamonds, The Book of Diamonds, The Queen's Jewels, Jewellery History Today, Diamond: A Journey to the Heart of an Obsession, Geological Magazine, Thomas Major Cullinan: A Biography, The Crown Jewels, The Diamond World, King Edward VII: A Biography, Dictionary of Gems and Gemology, The Tower of London: 900 Years of English History, The Crown Jewels, Scientific American, Gems & Gemology, Our Fascinating Earth, Science, Mineralogical Magazine, Curtana, Lily Font,  **TEXT:** Largest rough diamond ever discovered  
  
The Cullinan Diamond is the largest gem-quality rough diamond ever found,[2] weighing 3,106.75 carats (621.35 g) (21.9 ounces), (1.37 pounds) discovered at the Premier No.2 mine in Cullinan, South Africa, on 26 January 1905. It was named after Thomas Cullinan, the owner of the mine. In April 1905, it was put on sale in London, but despite considerable interest, it was still unsold after two years. In 1907, the Transvaal Colony government bought the Cullinan and Prime Minister Louis Botha presented it to Edward VII, King of the United Kingdom, who had it cut by Joseph Asscher & Co. in Amsterdam.  
  
Cullinan produced stones of various cuts and sizes, the largest of which is named Cullinan I or the Great Star of Africa, and at 530.4 carats (106.08 g) (3.74 ounces) it is the largest clear cut diamond in the world. The stone is mounted in the head of the Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross. The second-largest is Cullinan II or the Second Star of Africa, weighing 317.4 carats (63.48 g), mounted in the Imperial State Crown. Both are part of the Crown Jewels. Seven other major diamonds, weighing a total of 208.29 carats (41.66 g), are privately owned by Elizabeth II, who inherited them from her grandmother, Queen Mary, in 1953. The Queen also owns minor brilliants and a set of unpolished fragments.  
  
Discovery and early history [ edit ]  
  
Wells and the diamond  
  
The Cullinan is estimated to have formed in Earth's mantle transition zone at a depth of 410–660 km (255–410 miles) and reached the surface 1.18 billion years ago.[3] It was found 5.5 metres (18 ft) below the surface at Premier Mine in Cullinan, Transvaal Colony, by Frederick Wells, surface manager at the mine, on 26 January 1905. It was approximately 10.1 centimetres (4.0 in) long, 6.35 centimetres (2.50 in) wide, 5.9 centimetres (2.3 in) deep, and weighed 3,106 carats (621.2 grams).[4] Newspapers called it the "Cullinan Diamond", a reference to Sir Thomas Cullinan, who opened the mine in 1902.[5] It was three times the size of the Excelsior Diamond, found in 1893 at Jagersfontein Mine, weighing 972 carats (194.4 g). Four of its eight surfaces were smooth, indicating that it once had been part of a much larger stone broken up by natural forces. It had a blue-white hue and contained a small pocket of air, which at certain angles produced a rainbow, or Newton's rings.[6]  
  
Shortly after its discovery, Cullinan went on public display at the Standard Bank in Johannesburg, where it was seen by an estimated 8,000–9,000 visitors. In April 1905, the rough gem was deposited with Premier Mining Co.'s London sales agent, S. Neumann & Co.[7] Due to its immense value, detectives were assigned to a steamboat that was rumoured to be carrying the stone, and a parcel was ceremoniously locked in the captain's safe and guarded on the entire journey. It was a diversionary tactic – the stone on that ship was fake, meant to attract those who would be interested in stealing it. Cullinan was sent to the United Kingdom in a plain box via registered post.[8] On arriving in London, it was conveyed to Buckingham Palace for inspection by King Edward VII. Although it drew considerable interest from potential buyers, Cullinan went unsold for two years.[4]  
  
Presentation to Edward VII [ edit ]  
  
Transvaal Prime Minister, Louis Botha, suggested buying the diamond for Edward VII as "a token of the loyalty and attachment of the people of the Transvaal to His Majesty's throne and person".[9] In August 1907, a vote was held in the Legislative Council[10] on the Cullinan's fate, and a motion authorising the purchase was carried by 42 votes in favour to 19 against. Initially, Henry Campbell-Bannerman, then British Prime Minister, advised the king to decline the offer, but he later decided to let Edward VII choose whether or not to accept the gift.[11] Eventually, he was persuaded by Winston Churchill, then Colonial Under-Secretary. For his trouble, Churchill was sent a replica, which he enjoyed showing off to guests on a silver plate.[12] The Transvaal Colony government bought the diamond on 17 October 1907 for £150,000,[13] which adjusted for pound-sterling inflation is equivalent to £16 million in 2019.[14] Due to a 60% tax on mining profits, the Treasury received some of its money back from the Premier Diamond Mining Company.[15]  
  
The diamond was presented to the king at Sandringham House by Agent-General of the colony, Sir Richard Solomon, on 9 November 1907 – his sixty-sixth birthday – in the presence of a large party of guests, including the Queen of Sweden, the Queen of Spain, the Duke of Westminster and Lord Revelstoke.[16] The king asked his colonial secretary, Lord Elgin, to announce that he accepted the gift "for myself and my successors" and that he would ensure "this great and unique diamond be kept and preserved among the historic jewels which form the heirlooms of the Crown".[12]  
  
Cutting process [ edit ]  
  
Joseph Asscher making the split  
  
The king chose Joseph Asscher & Co. of Amsterdam to cleave and polish the rough stone into brilliant gems of various cuts and sizes. Abraham Asscher collected it from the Colonial Office in London on 23 January 1908.[17] He returned to the Netherlands by train and ferry with the diamond in his coat pocket.[13] Meanwhile, to much fanfare, a Royal Navy ship carried an empty box across the North Sea, again throwing off potential thieves. Even the captain had no idea that his "precious" cargo was a decoy.[18]  
  
On 10 February 1908, the rough stone was split in half by Joseph Asscher at his diamond-cutting factory in Amsterdam.[19] At the time, technology had not yet evolved to guarantee the quality of modern standards, and cutting the diamond was difficult and risky. After weeks of planning, an incision 0.5 inches (1.3 cm) deep was made to enable Asscher to cleave the diamond in one blow. Making the incision alone took four days, and a steel knife broke on the first attempt,[4] but a second knife was fitted into the groove and split it clean in two along one of four possible cleavage planes.[20] In all, splitting and cutting the diamond took eight months, with three people working 14 hours per day to complete the task.[4]  
  
"The tale is told of Joseph Asscher, the greatest cleaver of the day," wrote Matthew Hart in his book Diamond: A Journey to the Heart of an Obsession (2002), "that when he prepared to cleave the largest diamond ever known … he had a doctor and nurse standing by and when he finally struck the diamond … he fainted dead away".[21] Lord Ian Balfour, in his book Famous Diamonds (2009), dispels the fainting story, suggesting it was more likely Joseph would have celebrated, opening a bottle of champagne.[17] When Joseph's nephew Louis heard the story, he exclaimed "No Asscher would ever faint over any operation on any diamond".[22]  
  
Nine largest stones split from the rough Cullinan diamond  
  
Diamonds cut from the Cullinan [ edit ]  
  
Cullinan produced 9 major stones of 1,055.89 carats (211.178 g) in total,[23] plus 96 minor brilliants and some unpolished fragments weighing 19.5 carats (3.90 g).[24] All but the two largest stones – Cullinans I and II – remained in Amsterdam by arrangement as the fee for Asscher's services,[25] until the South African government bought them (except Cullinan VI, which Edward VII had purchased and given to his wife Queen Alexandra in 1907), and the High Commissioner for Southern Africa presented them to Queen Mary on 28 June 1910.[12] Mary also inherited Cullinan VI from Alexandra, and she left all her Cullinan diamonds to her granddaughter Elizabeth II in 1953.[26] Cullinans I and II are part of the Crown Jewels,[2] which belong to the Queen in right of the Crown.[27]  
  
Asscher sold the minor stones to the South African government, which distributed them to Queen Mary; Louis Botha, then prime minister of South Africa; the diamond merchants Arthur and Alexander Levy, who supervised the cutting of Cullinan;[28] and Jacob Romijn (later Romyn), who co-founded the first trade union in the diamond industry.[29] Some were set by Mary into a long platinum chain, which Elizabeth has never worn in public, saying that "it gets in the soup".[30] In the 1960s, two minor Cullinan diamonds owned by Louis Botha's heirs were analysed at the De Beers laboratory in Johannesburg and found to be completely free of nitrogen or any other impurities.[31] Cullinans I and II were examined in the 1980s by gemologists at the Tower of London and both graded as colourless type IIa.[32]  
  
Cullinan I [ edit ]  
  
The nine major stones. Top: Cullinans II, I, and III. Bottom: Cullinans VIII, VI, IV, V, VII and IX.  
  
Cullinan I, or the Great Star of Africa, is a pendeloque-cut brilliant weighing 530.2 carats (106.04 g) and has 74 facets.[33] It is set at the top of the Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross which had to be redesigned in 1910 to accommodate it. Cullinan I was surpassed as the world's largest cut diamond of any colour by the 545.67-carat (109.134 g) brown Golden Jubilee Diamond in 1992,[34] but is still the largest clear cut diamond in the world.[35] In terms of clarity, it has a few tiny cleavages and a small patch of graining. The 5.89 cm × 4.54 cm × 2.77 cm (2.32 in × 1.79 in × 1.09 in) diamond is fitted with loops and can be taken out of its setting to be worn as a pendant suspended from Cullinan II to make a brooch.[36] Queen Mary, wife of George V, often wore it like this.[37] In 1908, the stone was valued at US$2.5 million (equivalent to US$52 million in 2020)[38]– two and a half times the rough Cullinan's estimated value.[39]  
  
Cullinan II [ edit ]  
  
Cullinan II, or the Second Star of Africa, is a cushion-cut brilliant with 66 facets weighing 317.4 carats (63.48 g) set in the front of the Imperial State Crown,[33] below the Black Prince's Ruby (a large spinel).[40] It measures 4.54 cm × 4.08 cm × 2.42 cm (1.79 in × 1.61 in × 0.95 in). The diamond has a number of tiny flaws, scratches on the table facet, and a small chip at the girdle. Like Cullinan I, it is held in place by a yellow gold enclosure, which is screwed onto the crown.[36]  
  
Cullinan III [ edit ]  
  
Cullinan III, or the Lesser Star of Africa, is pear-cut and weighs 94.4 carats (18.88 g).[33] In 1911, Queen Mary, wife and queen consort of George V, had it set in the top cross pattée of a crown that she personally bought for her coronation.[41] In 1912, the Delhi Durbar Tiara, worn the previous year by Mary instead of a crown at the Delhi Durbar, where her husband wore the Imperial Crown of India, was also adapted to take Cullinans III and IV.[42] In 1914, Cullinan III was permanently replaced on the crown by a crystal model. Today, it is most frequently worn in combination with Cullinan IV by Elizabeth II as a brooch. In total, the brooch is 6.5 cm (2.6 in) long and 2.4 cm (0.94 in) wide.[43] Cullinan III has also been used as a pendant on the Coronation Necklace, where it occasionally replaced the 22.4-carat (4.48 g) Lahore Diamond.[44][45]  
  
Cullinan IV [ edit ]  
  
Queen Mary wearing Cullinans I and II as a brooch on her chest, III as a pendant on the Coronation Necklace , and IV in the base of her crown, below the Koh-i-Noor  
  
Cullinan IV, also referred to as a Lesser Star of Africa, is square-cut and weighs 63.6 carats (12.72 g).[33] It was also set in the base of Queen Mary's Crown but was removed in 1914. On 25 March 1958, while she and Prince Philip were on a state visit to the Netherlands, Queen Elizabeth II revealed that Cullinan III and IV are known in her family as "Granny's Chips". They visited the Asscher Diamond Company, where Cullinan had been cut 50 years earlier. It was the first time the Queen had worn the brooch publicly. During her visit, she unpinned the brooch and offered it for examination to Louis Asscher, nephew of Joseph Asscher, who split the rough diamond. Aged 84, he was deeply moved that the Queen had brought the diamonds with her, knowing how much it would mean to him seeing them again after so many years.[46]  
  
Cullinan V [ edit ]  
  
Cullinan V is an 18.8-carat (3.76 g) heart-shaped diamond set in the centre of a platinum brooch that formed a part of the stomacher made for Queen Mary to wear at the Delhi Durbar in 1911. The brooch was designed to show off Cullinan V and is pavé-set with a border of smaller diamonds. It can be suspended from the VIII brooch and can be used to suspend the VII pendant. It was often worn like this by Mary.[44]  
  
Cullinan VI [ edit ]  
  
Cullinan VI is marquise-cut and weighs 11.5 carats (2.30 g).[33] It hangs from the brooch containing Cullinan VIII and forming part of the stomacher of the Delhi Durbar parure. Cullinan VI along with VIII can also be fitted together to make yet another brooch, surrounded by some 96 smaller diamonds. The design was created around the same time that the Cullinan V heart-shaped brooch was designed, both having a similar shape.[47]  
  
Cullinan VII [ edit ]  
  
Cullinan VII is also marquise-cut and weighs 8.8 carats (1.76 g).[33] It was originally given by Edward VII to his wife and consort Queen Alexandra. After his death she gave the jewel to Queen Mary, who had it set as a pendant hanging from the diamond-and-emerald Delhi Durbar necklace, part of the parure.[48]  
  
Cullinan VIII [ edit ]  
  
Cullinan VIII is an oblong-cut diamond weighing 6.8 carats (1.36 g).[33] It is set in the centre of a brooch forming part of the stomacher of the Delhi Durbar parure. Together with Cullinan VI it forms a brooch.[47]  
  
Cullinan IX [ edit ]  
  
Cullinan IX is smallest of the principal diamonds to be obtained from the rough Cullinan. It is a pendeloque or stepped pear-cut stone, weighs 4.39 carats (0.878 g), and is set in a platinum ring known as the Cullinan IX Ring.[49]  
  
See also [ edit ]  
  
  
  
  
  
Further reading [ edit ]  
  
Shipley, Robert M. (1941) Important Diamonds of the World, pp. 15-16. Gemological Institute of America, USA, Vol. 3, No. 10 (Summer 1941)  
  
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https://www.rct.uk/collection/themes/trails/the-crown-jewels/the-cullinan-diamond  
  
**TITLE:** The Cullinan Diamond  
**META DESCRIPTION:** Stones cut from the largest diamond ever found have been included in the Crown Jewels  
**META KEYWORDS:   
H1**The Cullinan Diamond,  **H2  
BOLD/STRONG:   
Italic: :   
TEXT:** Incorporated into the Crown Jewels are stones cut from the magnificent Cullinan Diamond – the largest diamond ever found.  
  
The stone was discovered near Pretoria in South Africa on 26 January 1905, and is named after the chairman of the mining company, Thomas Cullinan. In its uncut state, it weighed 3,106 metric carats and boasted a size of 10.1 x 6.35 x 5.9 cm. This scale, coupled with its extraordinary blue-white colour and exceptional clarity, made it the most celebrated diamond in the world.  
  
In 1907 the Cullinan was presented to King Edward VII by the Government of the Transvaal. It was a symbolic gesture intended to heal the rift between Britain and South Africa following the Boer War. After initial hesitation, the King accepted the gift on the recommendation of the British Government. The stone was taken under heavy police escort to Sandringham, and formally presented on the King's 66th birthday.  
  
Cutting this extraordinary diamond posed a considerable challenge. The stone was dispatched to the leading diamond cutters of the day, Asschers of Amsterdam, where experts spent weeks considering the best method for splitting it. It took four days to prepare the groove for the cleaving knife, and the very first blow broke the knife rather than the diamond. Finally, on 10 February 1908, Joseph Asscher split the stone into two. Over the next eight months, three men worked for 14 hours a day to cut and polish nine large stones from the original diamond. Each of these stones was given a number from I to IX, and today they are still referred to in this way. 97 small brilliants and some unpolished fragments were also created.  
  
After King Edward's death in 1910, King George V had Cullinan I and II set in the Sovereign's Sceptre and Imperial State Crown respectively. Both these stones are still in the regalia today. The remaining numbered diamonds were kept by Asschers as payment for their work. Cullinan VI and VIII were later brought privately by King Edward VII as a gift for Queen Alexandra, and the others were acquired by the South African Government and given to Queen Mary in 1910, in memory of the Inauguration of the Union. They were bequeathed to Her Majesty The Queen in 1953.  
  
Click on the objects below to read more about how Cullinan I and II were incorporated into the Crown Jewels. Stones III-IX today form part of The Queen's personal jewellery and are not shown here.

https://www.thecourtjeweller.com/2022/01/the-queens-cullinan-diamonds.html  
  
**TITLE:** The Queen’s Cullinan Diamonds  
**META DESCRIPTION:**   
**META KEYWORDS:   
H1**The Queen’s Cullinan Diamonds,  **H2  
BOLD/STRONG:** The Cullinan I, The Cullinan II, The Cullinan III and IV, The Cullinan V, The Cullinan VI and VIII, The Cullinan VII, The Cullinan IX,  **Italic: :** Related,  **TEXT:** Today in 1905, the Cullinan Diamond was discovered in South Africa. To celebrate the remarkable discovery, we’re looking today at the way that the Queen continues to wear the diamonds cut from the massive gemstone. From crown jewels to personal pieces, these are the Queen’s Cullinan Diamonds.  
  
The diamond was found at the Premier No. 2 mine in Cullinan, South Africa. The superintendent of the mine, Frederick Wells, spotted the enormous stone by chance while on his rounds. Caroline de Guitaut of the Royal Collection described the moment: “So incredible was its discovery that the moment it was found at the Premier Mine it was thrown out of the window of the mine manager’s office because it was thought to be a worthless crystal.” Wells is pictured above holding the immense stone. The rough diamond measured at more than 3000 carats and weighed more than a pound. It was the biggest diamond that had ever been discovered.  
  
South Africa was still a part of the British empire when the diamond was discovered, and the colonial government purchased it. They wanted to bestow the enormous stone on the reigning king, Edward VII. At first, he didn’t want to accept—there had also been some disagreement about whether to offer it to him in the first place—but after a bit of convincing (by a young Winston Churchill, of all people), he finally agreed to take it.  
  
It took a bit of wrangling to get the Cullinan from Africa to London, but once it made it to British shores, it was given to Bertie on his birthday in November 1907. The diamond was sent to the Asschers in the Netherlands to be cut. After a process of eight months, they produced nine major diamonds and 96 small brilliants from the original diamond.  
  
Here’s a look at the nine major diamonds cut from the original Cullinan stone. I’ve spiced up this old illustration of the diamond with some labels for you—you’re welcome! In the top row, you’ll see the three biggest diamonds. From left to right: the Cullinan II, the Cullinan I, and the Cullinan III. And on the bottom row are the six smaller stones: The Cullinan VIII, the Cullinan VI, the Cullinan IV, the Cullinan V, the Cullinan VII, and the Cullinan IX. The individual diamonds had slightly different chains of ownership. (You can read more about that in this article.) Today, the Cullinan I and Cullinan II stones are part of the crown jewels, while the seven remaining diamonds are set in the Queen’s personal jewelry. While Queen Mary loved to play with the various configurations of the Cullinans, the Queen has worn them in the same way for essentially her entire reign. Below, I’ll discuss the placement of each of the stones as they’re used and worn today.  
  
The Cullinan I The largest of the Cullinans is the magnificent Cullinan I, which is also called “the Great Star of Africa.” The pear-shaped stone measures at an astonishing 530.2 carats. It is part of the British crown jewels, set in the Sovereign’s Sceptre. Above, the Queen holds the sceptre for a portrait taken during her coronation in June 1953.  
  
The Cullinan II The Cullinan II, a 317.4-carat cushion-shaped diamond, is often called “the Second Star of Africa.” Like the Cullinan I, it’s part of the British crown jewels. The diamond is set in the front of the Imperial State Crown, below the Black Prince’s Ruby. Above, the Queen wears the crown (with Queen Victoria’s Pearl Drop Earrings and her Golden Jubilee Necklace) during the State Opening of Parliament in November 2004.  
  
The Cullinan III and IV The Cullinan III, a 94.4-carat pear-shaped diamond, and the Cullinan IV, a 63.6-carat cushion-shaped diamond, are set together in an impressive brooch. The Queen has jokingly called this piece “Granny’s Chips,” because she inherited it from her grandmother, Queen Mary, and the diamonds are downright enormous. Above, the Queen wears the brooch for a service celebrating her Diamond Jubilee in June 2012.  
  
The Cullinan V This intricate brooch features the Cullinan V, an 18.8-carat heart-shaped diamond, in its center. The Queen clearly loves this brooch, and she has worn it frequently during her entire 70 year reign. Here, she wears the jewel in October 2018 for the wedding of her granddaughter, Princess Eugenie of York, in Windsor.  
  
The Cullinan VI and VIII The design of the Cullinan V Brooch is mimicked in the top portion of this brooch as well. The top stone in this brooch is the Cullinan VIII, a 6.8-carat cushion-cut diamond. The pendant is the Cullinan VI, an 11.5-carat marquise-cut diamond. Here, the Queen wears the brooch for a reception at Windsor Castle in April 2019.  
  
The Cullinan IX And finally, the Cullinan IX, a 4.4-carat pear-shaped diamond, is set in a ring. The Queen doesn’t wear the ring particularly often, and some of the best images showing her wearing it (on her right hand) come from a portrait session with the famed photographer Yousuf Karsh in 1984. She also wore the Cullinan III and IV Brooch for the same set of images.

https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/worlds-largest-diamond-found  
  
**TITLE:** World’s largest diamond found  
**META DESCRIPTION:** At the Premier Mine in Pretoria, South Africa, the 1.33 pound, 3,106-carat diamond "Cullinan" is discovered during a routine inspection by the mine’s superintendent. It was the largest diamond ever found.  
**META KEYWORDS:** January 25,Africa,1905,Topics, **H1**World’s largest diamond found,  **H2**THIS DAY IN HISTORY, Citation Information, FACT CHECK: We strive for accuracy and fairness. But if you see something that doesn't look right, click here to contact us! HISTORY reviews and updates its content regularly to ensure it is complete and accurate., ALSO ON THIS DAY, American becomes first non-Japanese to achieve highest rank in sumo wrestling, First Winter Olympics, Chairman Mao’s widow sentenced to death, Russia activates its nuclear command systems for the first time, Charles Manson and his followers convicted of murder, Thailand declares war on the United States and England, President Kennedy holds first live television news conference, Paul McCartney is released from a Tokyo jail and deported from Japan, Scottish poet Robert Burns is born, First Emmy Awards ceremony, Israeli sub vanishes, BTK killer sends message, First national memorial is ordered by Congress, Formal commission is established on the League of Nations,  **BOLD/STRONG:** HISTORY, FACT CHECK:,  **Italic: :** Ad Choices, Advertise, Closed Captioning, Copyright Policy, Corporate Information, Employment Opportunities, FAQ/Contact Us, Privacy Notice, Terms of Use, TV Parental Guidelines, RSS Feeds, Accessibility Support, Privacy Settings, We strive for accuracy and fairness. But if you see something that doesn't look right, click here to contact us! HISTORY reviews and updates its content regularly to ensure it is complete and accurate., ...read more, ...read more, ...read more, ...read more, ...read more, ...read more, ...read more, ...read more, ...read more, ...read more, ...read more, ...read more, ...read more, ...read more,  **TEXT:** On January 25, 1905, at the Premier Mine in Pretoria, South Africa, a 3,106-carat diamond is discovered during a routine inspection by the mine’s superintendent. Weighing 1.33 pounds, and christened the “Cullinan,” it was the largest diamond ever found.  
  
Frederick Wells was 18 feet below the earth’s surface when he spotted a flash of starlight embedded in the wall just above him. His discovery was presented that same afternoon to Sir Thomas Cullinan, who owned the mine. Cullinan then sold the diamond to the Transvaal provincial government, which presented the stone to Britain’s King Edward VII as a birthday gift. Worried that the diamond might be stolen in transit from Africa to London, Edward arranged to send a phony diamond aboard a steamer ship loaded with detectives as a diversionary tactic. While the decoy slowly made its way from Africa on the ship, the Cullinan was sent to England in a plain box.  
  
Edward entrusted the cutting of the Cullinan to Joseph Asscher, head of the Asscher Diamond Company of Amsterdam. Asscher, who had cut the famous Excelsior Diamond, a 971-carat diamond found in 1893, studied the stone for six months before attempting the cut. On his first attempt, the steel blade broke, with no effect on the diamond. On the second attempt, the diamond shattered exactly as planned; Asscher then supposedly fainted from nervous exhaustion.  
  
The Cullinan was later cut into nine large stones and about 100 smaller ones, valued at millions of dollars all told. The largest stone is called the “Star of Africa I,” or “Cullinan I,” and at 530 carats, it is the largest-cut fine-quality colorless diamond in the world. The second largest stone, the “Star of Africa II” or “Cullinan II,” is 317 carats. Both of these stones, as well as the “Cullinan III,” are on display in the Tower of London with Britain’s other crown jewels; the Cullinan I is mounted in the British Sovereign’s Royal Scepter, while the Cullinan II sits in the Imperial State Crown.

http://www.cullinan-diamond.com/  
  
**TITLE:** History and Facts  
**META DESCRIPTION:**   
**META KEYWORDS:   
H1**Cullinan  
  
 Diamond,  **H2**Cullinan Discovery, Cullinan Diamond  
  
 Owners, Cullinan Diamond Facts:,  **BOLD/STRONG:** Cullinan Unpolished Parts, Cullinan Polished Parts, Cullinan-Diamond.com,  **Italic: :** Cullinan  
  
 Diamond, © Cullinan Diamond - History and Facts - Powered by  
  
 Cullinan-Diamond.com - All rights reserved!,  **TEXT:** Cullinan Discovery On January 26, 1905, mine superintendent Frederick Wells made an unusual find in Gauteng, South Africa. Only 9 meters from the surface was a large, blue-white diamond, which he extracted using a pocket knife and took to the mine office to be weighed and inspected. The stone tipped the scales at 3,106 carats (621.35 grams), making it the largest diamond ever found. It was named the Cullinan after Sir Thomas Cullinan, the owner of the diamond mine in which it was found. The diamond was then dispatched to England where it would be entrusted to Premier's London agent, Sigismund Neumann. Cullinan Diamond Owners To ensure the diamond reached its destination safely it was sent to England in an unmarked postal box, while a replica was publicly accompanied by detectives on a steamer from South Africa as a diversion. The diamond was later bought by the Transvaal government, which had been reconciled with England after the Anglo-Boer war, for £150,000 and presented to King Edward VII as a goodwill gesture on his 66th birthday on November 9, 1907. Amsterdam-based company I. J. Asscher and Co cut the diamond. The two resulting stones, weighing 1,977ct and 1,040ct, were cleaved into nine major stones, 96 brilliants and 9.5 carats of unpolished pieces. The two main stones, Cullinan I (The Great Star of Africa) and Cullinan II (The Lesser Star of Africa) were given to King Edward VII. Both currently reside in the Tower of London as part of the Crown Jewels.  
  
Cullinan Unpolished Parts  
  
Cullinan Polished Parts Cullinan Diamond Throughout the years, rumors have spread about a second half of the Cullinan diamond, as certain signs point to the diamond being part of a larger crystal. Legend has it that before Frederick Wells sold the diamond to Sir Thomas Cullinan, he broke off a piece which weighed 300-400g. If this were true, the Cullinan diamond would have weighed in about 1kg. It is said that when the famous diamond-cutter, Asscher received the stone to cut it, he studied it for months. In 1908, at his first attempt to cutting it, the blade broke but the diamond remained unbroken. After the second successful attempt, it is said that he fainted. The Cullinan diamond is the largest uncut diamond ever discovered. However, when it comes to polished diamonds, the Great Star of Africa (530.4 carats) lost its title as the biggest polished diamond to the Golden Jubilee Diamond (545.67 carats) in 1985.

https://www.worldhistory.org/Cullinan\_Diamond/  
  
**TITLE:** Cullinan Diamond  
**META DESCRIPTION:** The Cullinan Diamond was discovered in Transvaal, South Africa in 1905 and presented as a birthday gift to Edward VII of England (r. 1901-1910) by the Transvaal...  
**META KEYWORDS:** Cullinan Diamond,British Crown Jewels,Koh-i-Noor, **H1**Cullinan Diamond,  **H2**Definition, Bibliography, Translations, About the Author, Related Content, Free for the World, Supported by You, Recommended Books, Cite This Work, License & Copyright, Timeline, Partner Promotion, Our Videos,  **BOLD/STRONG:** 1, Cullinan, Thomas, $16.00, Alice R. Cullinan, $14.90, Kanfer, Stefan, $33.00, McCormick, Carolyn Cullinan, $29.95, Wilder, L. & Cullinan, Lisa, $11.99, Our Mission, Follow Us, Featured Partner,  **Italic: :** The Crown Jewels., Jewel A Celebration of Earth’s Treasures., World History Encyclopedia, World History Encyclopedia, World History Encyclopedia,  **TEXT:** The Cullinan Diamond was discovered in Transvaal, South Africa in 1905 and presented as a birthday gift to Edward VII of England (r. 1901-1910) by the Transvaal Government. It weighed well over 3,000 carats, making it the largest gem-quality rough diamond ever found. When discovered, it was valued at over $21 million dollars in today's money.  
  
Despite its tremendous value, the diamond was famously sent by registered post from South Africa to England. The rough stone was then cut into nine large gemstones, each given a name Cullinan I to IX, and 96 smaller diamonds. The largest diamond is the 530-carat Cullinan I, also known as the Star of Africa, which now sparkles in the royal sceptre of the British Crown Jewels. It is the largest colourless cut diamond in the world. The second largest stone, Cullinan II, the 317-carat Second Star of Africa, was set into the Imperial State Crown, which is used at coronations of British monarchs. The other larger diamonds are variously worn as pendants and brooches and remain a part of the private jewellery collection of Elizabeth II (r. 1952- ).  
  
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Discovery & Gift to Edward VII  
  
The Cullinan diamond was discovered on 26 January 1905 and is named after Thomas Cullinan, the chairman of the Premier Mine where it was found near Pretoria in the Transvaal, then a British colony (now a province of South Africa). The stone was discovered by Frederick G. S. Wells, Surface Manager at the mine who received a $10,000 bonus for his discovery. The massive uncut diamond weighed 3,106 carats and measured almost 10.1 centimetres (3.9 in) in length and 6.35 cm (2.5 in) in width, making it the largest uncut diamond ever found. It was an extraordinary example of a rough diamond for its sheer size but also for the excellent purity and its unique blue-white colour. The stone was first put on public display in the Standard Bank of Johannesburg.  
  
The Transvaal Government presented the diamond to King Edward VII of England as a present for his 66th birthday.  
  
In 1907 the Cullinan stone, still in its rough state, was sent to London by the Premier Mine Company owners to try and find a suitable buyer. Curiously, it was simply posted by registered mail while a decoy was used in an armoured ship everyone thought contained the real stone. Arriving safely enough, no private buyer showed any interest and so, pushed by the Prime Minister of Transvaal, General Louis Botha (l. 1862-1919), the Transvaal Government bought the stone from the Premier Mine Company. The price paid was £150,000 (over £18 million or $21 million today).  
  
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Rough Cullinan Diamond Unknown Artist (Public Domain)  
  
In 1907 it was decided by the Transvaal Government to present the diamond to King Edward VII of England as a present for his 66th birthday. The glamorous gift was meant to help restore relations between Britain and South Africa following the Second Boer War (1899-1902) between the two countries. The stone was taken by police escort to Sandringham House in Norfolk for presentation to the king on his birthday, 9 November 1907. The king then gave it to the care of Scotland Yard, the famed headquarters of the Metropolitan Police, until it had been decided what exactly to do with it.  
  
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Cullinan I: the Sovereign Sceptre  
  
In early 1908 it was decided to cut the rough and opaque diamond into brilliant gemstones. In order to get ideas on what exactly to do with the hoped-for gems, a team of experts visited the British Crown Jewels in the Tower of London to see where they might be installed. The precious stone was then sent to the diamond experts Joseph Asscher and Company of Amsterdam for cutting. The process to cut out and polish sparkling gems from the huge mass of rough stone began in February 1908 and took the team of three specialists eight months to complete. The original piece was first cut into two pieces weighing 516.5 and 309 carats. The groove for the first cut alone took four days to prepare and when Joseph Asscher himself attempted to make it, the steel knife snapped. A second attempt was successful, and the original stone was eventually cut into seven large pieces. These were then cut and polished to produce nine large stones, each being given the rather unimaginative name of Cullinan plus a Roman numeral from I to IX. Cullinan I and II were formally presented to Edward VII on 21 November 1908, almost exactly one year after he had first set eyes on the uncut stone. This pair of gems, then the largest cut diamonds in the world, were immediately put on public (and very safe) display in the Tower of London.  
  
British Sovereign's Sceptre with Cullinan I Diamond Unknown Artist (Public Domain)  
  
The pear-shaped Cullinan I was the largest stone of the group, weighing a massive 530.2 carats - the famous Koh-i-Noor diamond from India, also part of the British Crown Jewels, weighs a mere 105.6 carats. Cullinan I is the largest colourless top-quality cut white diamond in the world and the magnificent gem did at least benefit from a new and more romantic name: the Star of Africa. Initially, Cullinan I and Cullinan II (see below) were paired together in what must have been a dazzling but rather impractical pendant brooch. Following Edward VII’s death in 1910 there was a rethink of just what to do with these magnificent jewels.  
  
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All seven Cullinan diamonds (III-IX) are part of the personal jewellery collection of Elizabeth II.  
  
The Cullinan I was added to the Sovereign's Sceptre, ready for the coronation of George V (r. 1910-1936) in 1911 CE. This is, in fact, what the original design team had decided the largest stone should be used for back in 1908. The sceptre, which is also known as the King’s Sceptre, was made in 1661 for the coronation of Charles II of England (r. 1660-1685), and it symbolises worldly regal power and good governance. The stone is cradled upright between a two-armed gold mounting at the top of the sceptre which allows it to be seen from all angles. This mounting is hinged to easily allow the stone to be removed. Due to the extra weight of the diamond, it was necessary to reinforce the length of the sceptre. Above the diamond is an amethyst monde, itself set with diamonds and one large emerald. The sceptre, which measures 92.2 cm in length, was part of the regalia used by Queen Elizabeth II at her coronation in 1953.  
  
British Imperial State Crown Cyril Davenport (Public Domain)  
  
Cullinan II: the Imperial State Crown  
  
The second largest stone cut from the original diamond was the oval-shaped Cullinan II. It weighs 317 carats and has acquired the name the Second Star of Africa. In 1910, Cullinan II was set into the gold Imperial State Crown, also known as the Crown of State. This crown was originally created for the coronation of Queen Victoria (r. 1837-1901) in 1838 as a lighter alternative to the traditional St. Edward's Crown. It was also used by Edward VII at his coronation. The crown was remodelled, still with the Cullinan II in prime position, and used by George VI (r. 1936-1952) in his coronation in 1937 and by his daughter and successor Elizabeth II at her coronation.  
  
The Cullinan II is set at the front of the crown’s band directly below another famous gemstone, the Black Prince's Ruby (actually a balas or spinel). The famous Stewart Sapphire had been in this position but was moved to the back of the crown to make way for the Cullinan II. Besides coronations, the crown also makes an appearance at various state occasions such as the annual State Opening of Parliament. Both the crown and the sceptre with Cullinan I are on public display in the Jewel House inside the Waterloo Barracks of the Tower of London. As with Cullinan I, the Cullinan II can easily be removed from its crown setting so that it might be worn as a pendant or brooch.  
  
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Cullinan Diamonds I-IX Unknown Artist (Public Domain)  
  
Cullinan III-IX  
  
The other seven large diamonds cut from the original stone, named Cullinan III to IX, are all brilliants and sizeable diamonds in their own right. To make the best use of the material, various shapes were cut: three are pendeloque (pear-shaped), two are marquise cuts (elongated lozenges), one is rectangular and one square. Photographs were taken to document the cutting and polishing process, and many of these are now part of the Royal Collection. In addition to the big nine, another 96 small brilliant-cut diamonds were cut from the original Cullinan piece. There was also a remainder of unpolished fragments together weighing nine carats. Some 65% of the original rough diamond had been lost. The two star pieces of this group are Cullinan III, which is a pear-shaped stone weighing 94.4 carats, and the square-cut Cullinan IV which weighs 63.6 carats.  
  
King Edward VII bought Cullinan VI and VIII from Asscher who kept the other large Cullinan stones. The Dutch diamond merchant also kept the 96 smaller stones and unpolished fragments as his fee for cutting the original rough stone. The South African government subsequently acquired all of these stones and presented them to Queen Mary (l. 1876-1953), the consort of George V in 1910 to commemorate the formation of the Union of South Africa that year. In 1911, both Cullinan III and IV were set into the coronation crown of Queen Mary.  
  
Queen Mary Wearing the Cullinan Diamonds Frédéric Bisson (CC BY)  
  
As noted, both Cullinan I and II can be removed from their settings and joined to be worn as a pendant and this was famously done by both Queen Alexandra (consort of Edward VII) and Queen Mary. The latter queen consort even wore a pendant of Cullinan I and II and another pendant of Cullinan III and IV all at once for the State Opening of Parliament on 6 February 1911. The latter two diamonds, known affectionately by the royals as 'the chips', are still sometimes worn as a brooch and pendant with the drop Cullinan IV suspended below the square Cullinan III. Both stones are set in a fine lattice setting made of platinum. This combination has been worn by the Queen and, more recently, by the Duchesses of Cornwall and Cambridge. All seven Cullinan diamonds (III-IX) are part of the personal jewellery collection of Elizabeth II, who was bequeathed them by Queen Mary in 1953.

https://www.jewellermagazine.com/Article/537/Cullinan-1-9-World-Famous-Diamonds  
  
**TITLE:** Cullinan 1-9: World Famous Diamonds  
**META DESCRIPTION:** Weighing in at a whopping 3,106 carats, the Cullinan is the largest gem-quality diamond ever discovered.  
**META KEYWORDS:** Diamond 4Cs,diamond cut,Cullinan 1-9,Frederick Wells,Cullinan is named after Sir Thomas Cullinan,Cullinan sent to Asscher’s Diamond Co. for cutting,Diamond: A Journey to the Heart of an Obsession,nine largest diamonds,world famous diamonds,Diamonds By Cut - Brilliant (Round),Jeweller,Jewellery,News,magazine,industry,suppliers,Directory,business-to-business,B2B,consumer,retailers,trends,watches,sales,services,stores,subscribers,productivity,products,JAA,bangles,chain,charms,information,knowledge,Fairs, **H1**Cullinan 1-9: World Famous Diamonds,  **H2  
BOLD/STRONG:** Cullinan I, • The Cullinan I, • The Cullinan II, • The Cullinan III, • The Cullinan IV, • The Cullinan V, The Cullinan VI, • The Cullinan VII, • The Cullinan IX, By, Length, To follow his ongoing works click here., Famous Diamonds, DIAMONDS BY CUT - BRILLIANT (ROUND), • , Weight:, • , Dimensions:, • , Colour:, • , Rough weight:, • , Origin:, • , Date found: , • , Current location:, History of the stone, The nine stones, The Cullinan Diamond | Priceless Pieces, (11 Images),  **Italic: :** Cullinan I, By, Length, Unsolved History: the Hope Diamond,  **TEXT:** Cullinan 1-9: World Famous Diamonds  
  
Weighing in at a whopping 3,106 carats, the Cullinan is the largest gem-quality diamond ever discovered.  
  
Fact Sheet  
  
  
  
The Cullinan I  
  
  
  
Cullinan I  
  
• Weight: 530.20 carats  
  
• Dimensions: 58.9mm x 45.4mm x 27.7mm  
  
• Colour: colourless  
  
• Rough weight: 3,106 carats  
  
• Origin: Premier Mine, South Africa  
  
• Date found: 1905  
  
• Current location: British crown jewels, Tower of London  
  
  
  
  
  
History of the stone  
  
It was found in 1905 by Frederick Wells – the superintendent of the prolific Premier Mine in South Africa – who was attracted to a reflection while making a routine inspection trip through the mine.  
  
Eighteen feet below the surface of the earth, Wells noticed a shiny object on the steep wall of the mine a few feet above him. Such was the Cullinan’s initial size, that Wells thought he’d uncovered a massive piece of glass.  
  
Tests soon proved otherwise.  
  
Wells named the Cullinan after Sir Thomas Cullinan, who had visited the mine the previous day. Shortly following its discovery, it was sold to the Transvaal Government and presented to King Edward VII on his 66th birthday (November 9, 1907).  
  
King Edward promptly insured the stone for $US1.25 million and sent it to Amsterdam gem house Asscher’s Diamond Co. for cutting.  
  
Wells named the Cullinan after Sir Thomas Cullinan, who had visited the mine the previous day. Shortly following its discovery, it was sold to the Transvaal Government and presented to King Edward VII on his 66th birthday  
  
Asscher’s reputation for cutting large stones preceded it, having handled the Excelsior diamond, but never had the house had anything as large as the Cullinan. The pressure of the job was tremendous and Asscher staff studied the diamond for months before, on February 10, 1908, Joseph Asscher placed the steel cleaver’s blade into an incision half-an-inch deep and tapped it once with a heavy steel rod.  
  
The blade broke, but the diamond remained intact!  
  
Asscher attacked the stone a second time, and this time it split in two with such ease that Asscher is said to have feinted on the spot.  
  
“The tale is told of Joseph Asscher, the greatest cleaver of the day,” wrote Matthew Hart in his book Diamond: A Journey to the Heart of an Obsession, “ that when he prepared to cleave the largest diamond ever known, the 3,106-carat Cullinan, he had a doctor and nurse standing by and when he finally struck the diamond and it broke perfectly in two, he fainted dead away.”  
  
It is unlikely that this really happened – it's more of a fisherman's tale than fact – but such an embellishment acts as a wonderful testament to the magnitude and power of the great stone.  
  
Asscher persevered, making a second cleavage in the same direction that produced three principal sections. These sections would go on to yield nine major gems, 96 smaller brilliants, and 9.50 carats of unpolished pieces.  
  
The nine stones  
  
The nine largest stones remain either in the British Crown Jewels or in the personal possession of the Royal Family. These celebrated gems and their current settings are as follows:  
  
• The Cullinan I, also known as the Star of Africa, weighs 530.20 carats and was the largest polished diamond in the world until the discovery of the 545-carat Golden Jubilee diamond – also found in the Premier Mine. King Edward placed the Cullinan I in the Sovereign’s Royal Sceptre as part of the Crown Jewels, and it is now on display in the tower of London.  
  
• The Cullinan II is a 317.40-carat cushion-cut stone mounted in the band of the Imperial State Crown, and also in the Tower of London as part of the Crown Jewels.  
  
• The Cullinan III is a pear-shaped diamond weighing 94.40 carats and set into the finial of Queen Mary’s Crown. It can be worn with Cullinan IV as a pendant-brooch and many of Queen Mary’s portraits show her wearing these two stones in a manner popular with Queen Elizabeth II still today.  
  
• The Cullinan IV, a 63.60-carat cushion shape, was originally set in the band of Queen Mary’s crown. As mentioned above, it can also be worn as jewellery alongside the Cullinan III.  
  
• The Cullinan V is a triangular-pear cut weighing 18.80 carats originally mounted in a brooch for Queen Mary to be worn in the circlet of her crown as a replacement for the Koh-i-noor. This was after the Koh-i-noor was removed to sit in the new crown that was made for Elizabeth (now the Queen Mother) in 1937.  
  
• The Cullinan VI – an 11.50-carat, marquise-cut stone, was presented by King Edward to his wife Queen Alexandra, and is now worn by Elizabeth II as a drop on a diamond and emerald necklace. It has adorned the young Queen more frequently than any other section of the Cullinan.  
  
• The Cullinan VII is an 8.80-carat marquise-cut stone mounted in a pendant on a small diamond brooch that also contains the 6.80-carat cushion-cut Cullinan VIII.  
  
• The Cullinan IX, a 4.39-carat pear shape, is mounted in a ring with a prong setting that was made for Queen Mary and still worn by the current queen, Elizabeth II.  
  
To this day, speculation is rife that the huge Cullinan diamond discovered in 1905 is only a fragment of its former size and that another piece is either still awaiting discovery or was crushed in the mining process.  
  
The latter is very unlikely; however, the prospect of finding the portion of the Cullinan has added zest to the activities of numerous miners and prospectors.  
  
  
  
CULLINAN 1 to 9  
  
  
  
The Cullinan I  
  
  
  
The Cullinan II  
  
  
  
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ABOUT SCOTT SUCHER  
  
  
  
Scott Sucher, master of famous diamond replicas  
  
When one thinks of diamonds, Tijeras, New Mexico is not the first place that springs to mind, but it's home to Scott Sucher, the Master behind the research and replicas that form the World Famous Diamonds.  
  
Scott Sucher’s lifelong interest in geology commenced when a local museum hosted an exhibition of famous diamonds made of quartz when he was just a young boy. Whenever he could find time in his busy life, he published a collection of internet articles and lectures.  
  
After retirement, Sucher returned to stone cutting with renewed vigour when a Discovery Channel producer requested help for a program on famous diamonds. The 14-month collaboration resulted in Unsolved History: the Hope Diamond, which first aired in February 2005.  
  
The program gave Sucher the chance to handle the unset Hope diamond, the 31-carat Blue Heart diamond and Napoleon’s necklace – a 234-diamond necklace that Napoleon gave to his second wife Marie-Louise.  
  
Sucher then worked with the Natural History Museum in London to recreate a replica of the historic Koh-i-noor. The entire process took 12 months – photo analysis took four months alone – and concluded in July 2007. The cutting alone took 46 hours, and Sucher likened it to “brain surgery, as one mistake can be non-recoverable.”  
  
Sucher continues his work in partnership with many other experts and museums in the field. If anyone knows anything about the world's most famous diamonds, it's Scott Sucher.  
  
To follow his ongoing works click here.

https://famousdiamonds.tripod.com/cullinandiamonds.html  
  
**TITLE:** The Cullinan Diamonds  
**META DESCRIPTION:** enter a description here  
**META KEYWORDS:** enter keywords here, **H1  
H2  
BOLD/STRONG:** BACK,  **Italic: :   
TEXT:**