Mini Miners Monthly

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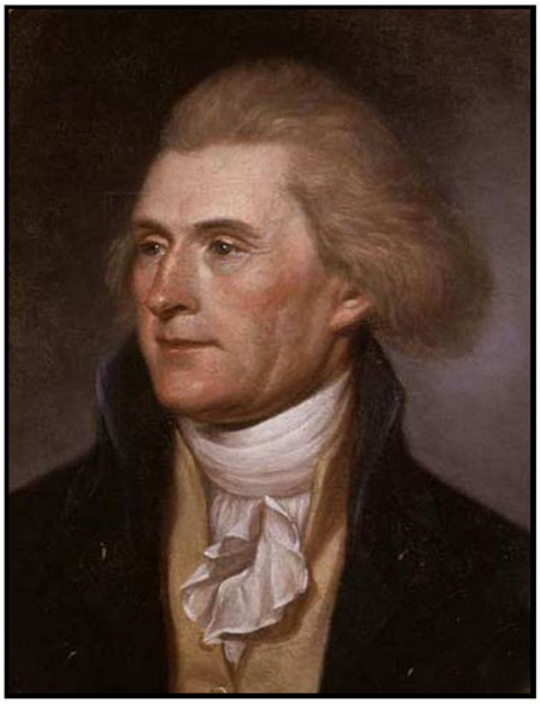
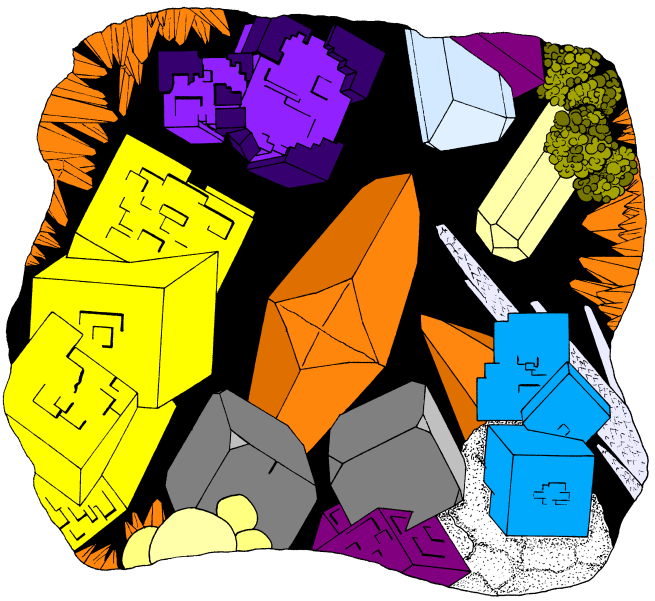


Here's a little test for you, Mini Miners: *Who is this man and what does he have to do with minerals?* You will find the answer in this issue of *Mini Miners Monthly*. The reason he is pictured here is to show you that there are many important people in the history of the world that have had an interest in minerals.

This issue of *Mini Miners* is filled with all sorts of activities. They will keep you busy and teach you about different interesting parts of mineral collecting. Enjoy the word searches, cross word puzzles and more.

In this issue you will find the names of people who have interesting connections to mineral collecting. Some of them lived over 100 or more years ago. You will also find names of people that are living today and are important collectors, dealers, publishers and scientists. If you use the internet, you will be able to learn about each of these people. Do a little work and you will have a chance to win a mineral specimen from Diamond Dan. See inside for more details.

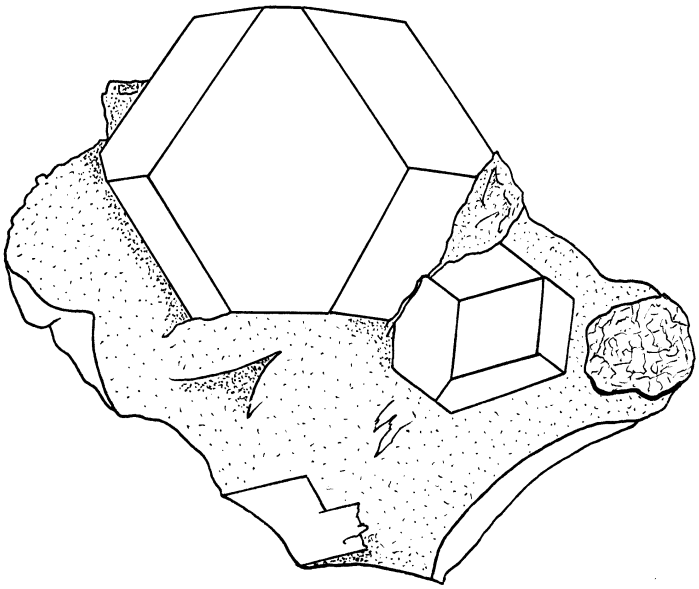
In January we will be welcoming the Junior Mineral Club programs of the entire California Federation of Mineralogical Societies to the Mini Miners family. That's over 75 *clubs* that will be reading and using *Mini Miners Monthly*. Included in the list of clubs is a group that specializes in fossils. We are learning that Mini Miners are interested in a lot of different subjects in geology. Though minerals will always be our main focus, it looks like it is time for us to add some information about fossils and the science of paleontology.



Mystery Mineral

I am one of the minerals pictured in this "fantasy pocket" from Illinois. I am gray, very heavy, and have a metallic luster. I contain the metal *lead* which is used to make batteries. I usually form cubes, but can also form octahedra. My name is _____.

Mineral of the Month: Lazurite



Lazurite is a silicate mineral. It has a long and complicated chemical formula: $(Na,Ca)_8(Al,Si)_{12}O_{24}(S,SO_4)$.

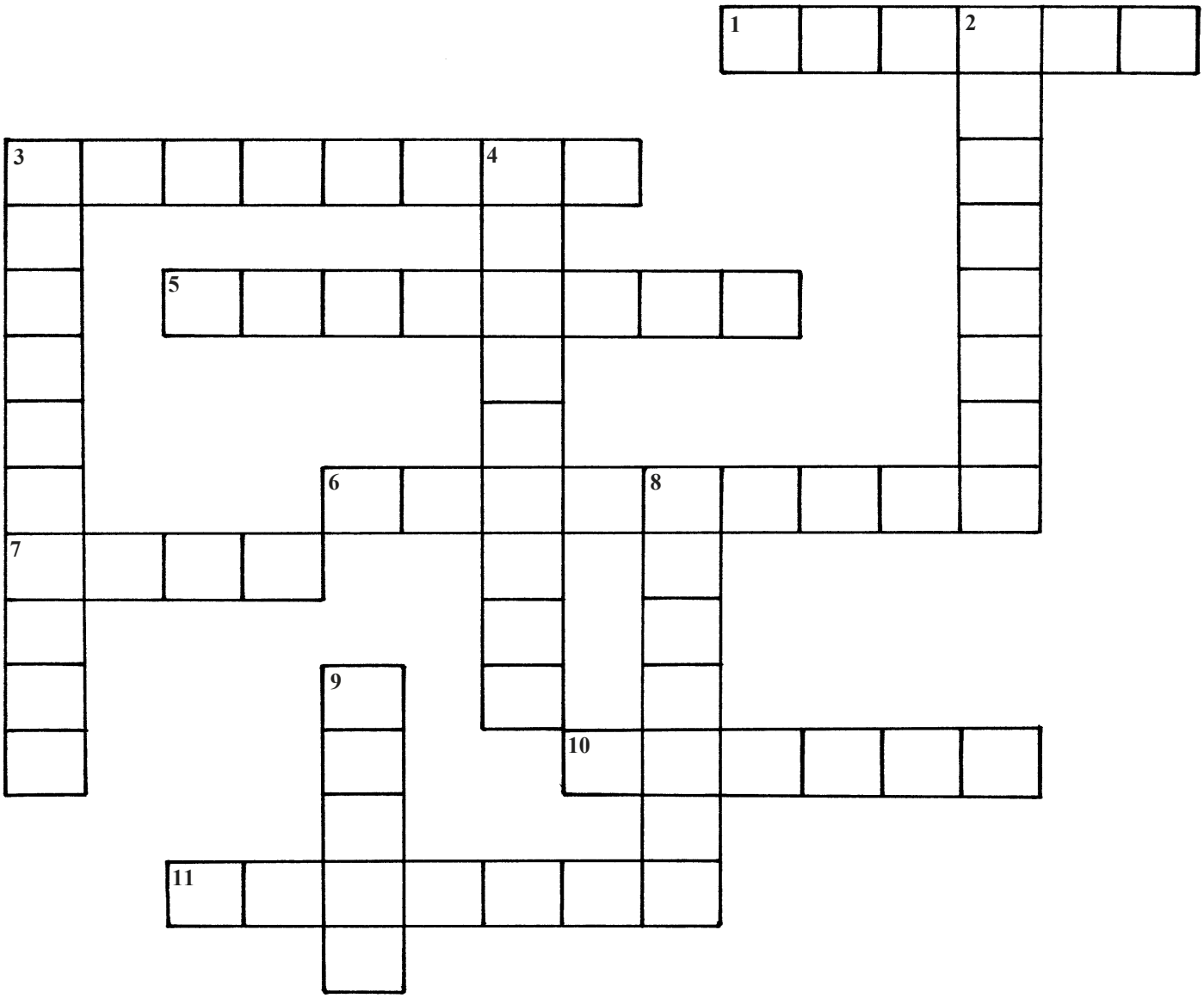
Crystal System: Isometric (cubic). Forms octahedral or dodecahedral crystals. It is usually massive.
Color: Dark blue
Hardness: 5 to 5.3
Streak: Light blue to colorless
Environment: Lazurite forms in metamorphic environments (where very high pressure and temperature change rocks and the minerals in them). Lazurite is therefore found in metamorphic rocks like marble.

Uses: Lazurite is a very popular and valuable gemstone. Large, massive pieces are cut and polished into slabs and art objects, like small carvings. When massive lazurite is mixed with very small amounts of calcite and pyrite, it is called *lapis lazuli.*

Legends: The ancient Greek physician named Dioscorides wrote a book around the year 55 (called *De Materia Medica*) in which he claimed that lapis lazuli was an effective cure if someone is bitten by a poisonous snake. Through the centuries, others have believed lapis lazuli to be a cure for fever and even depression.

Colorful Minerals for the Holidays

Here's a crossword puzzle that features minerals that are known for their bright colors. Can you figure them out?



1. Bright yellow. Burns in a match flame. / 2. Can be colorless, yellow, blue, purple, pink, green, or brown. / 3 across: Purple. A variety of quartz. / 3 down: Blue. A variety of beryl. / 4. Orange. Very heavy. It is an ore of the element "tungsten." 5. Blue. VERY hard. / 6. Can be yellow, red, orange or brown. But this mineral doesn't "howl" 7. Red. VERY hard, like #5. / 8. Green. A variety of beryl. / 9. Can be colorless, brown, red, or blue. It's harder than quartz. / 10. Can be red, purple, white, or green. Sometimes used as a gem...sometimes used to make sandpaper. / 11. The best are colorless, yellow, red or blue. Can also be black. The hardest stuff on Earth!

Famous Names in Mineral Collecting

In this word search puzzle you will find names of people who are very important in the history of mineral collecting. Their full names are listed below. *Only their last names are in the puzzle!* When you are done, go to the Mineralogical Record Biography page and look up the people listed here. Write two or three sentences on 5 of the people listed and send it to Diamond Dan by mail or email. One entry will be selected (from a hat) to receive a fluorite specimen from Diamond Dan's collection. (The Biography page is: http://www.minrec.org/labelarchive.asp)

J	E	F	F	E	R	I	S	A	A	R	O	N	S	W
C	E	A	D	P	S	I	L	L	I	M	A	N	B	E
L	U	F	E	U	C	H	T	W	A	N	G	E	R	R
W	M	A	F	X	I	Y	T	F	P	E	R	K	O	N
Y	L	Z	O	E	N	G	L	I	S	H	I	T	E	E
E	B	A	U	E	R	N	I	S	R	M	C	D	B	R
M	E	J	H	G	O	S	X	S	W	C	O	M	L	L
Q	M	I	O	U	M	V	O	H	A	S	L	K	I	P
W	E	V	E	R	E	I	N	N	B	O	A	M	N	O
U	N	P	L	B	R	E	F	I	Z	F	S	H	G	E
E	T	O	O	F	O	I	H	O	L	T	W	E	S	P
H	P	U	A	P	E	M	I	C	A	S	N	I	M	L
I	M	G	O	L	G	A	R	N	E	T	V	A	U	X
T	I	H	D	Q	U	A	R	T	Z	I	W	A	R	D
K	U	N	Z	N	B	N	A	M	A	E	S	L	I	K

Max Bauer, Clarence Bement, Frederick Canfield, George English, Lewis Feuchtwanger, George Fiss, A.E. Foote, William Jefferis, Thomas Jefferson, August Krantz, George Kunz, John & Sarah Mawe, George Vaux, Henry Ward, Abraham Werner, Georgius Agricola, Charles W. Peale, Frederick Pough, Washington Roebling, Miguel Romero, Arthur Seaman, Benjamin Silliman.

The names can be left to right, right to left, top to bottom, bottom to top or diagonally.

Good luck!

Modern Names in Mineral Collecting

Included in this word search are the names of people who have made important contributions to mineral collecting in the last 50 years or so. Most of them are still living. Some are writers, some are dealers, some are famous collectors, some are publishers. Their full names are listed below, but only their last names will be found in the word search puzzle. When you are done, you can go to the Mineralogical Record Biography page and read about these interesting people. (The Biography page is: http://www.minrec.org/labelarchive.asp)

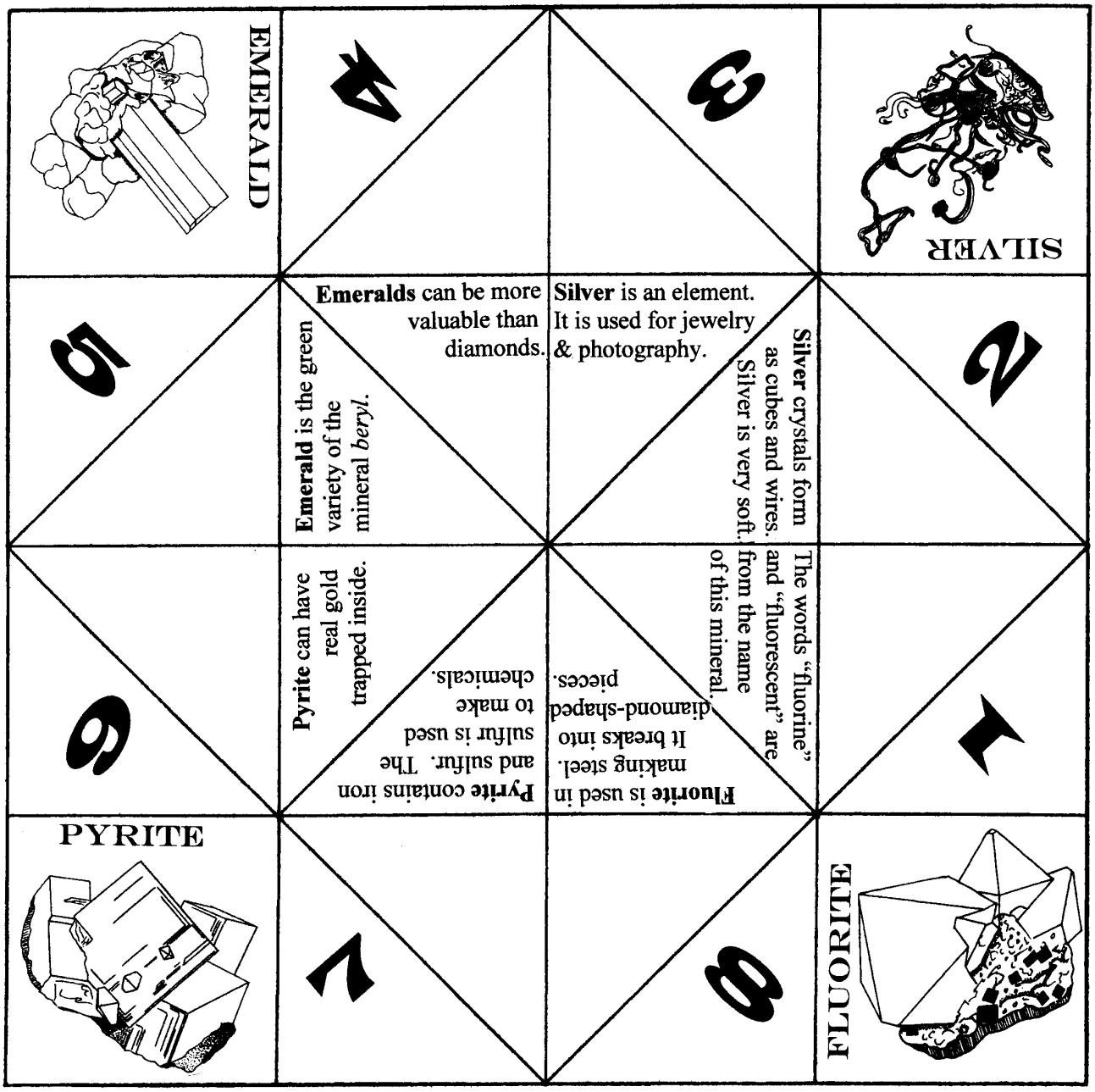
D	B	A	N	C	R	O	F	T	C	W	E	S	M	N
H	E	H	P	A	B	A	R	L	O	W	U	P	S	I
U	C	S	A	H	P	O	A	S	O	M	I	C	A	K
I	V	C	A	N	B	D	N	I	P	B	J	E	L	I
Z	A	B	C	U	D	Y	C	X	E	I	Y	J	E	S
I	U	S	M	O	T	Z	I	T	R	D	K	B	U	C
N	U	S	B	W	P	E	S	A	S	E	S	H	I	H
G	T	O	Y	I	F	H	L	A	B	A	N	T	O	E
C	A	R	L	L	I	R	I	S	S	U	E	W	O	R
O	X	C	V	S	I	M	S	A	M	X	L	H	A	N
N	A	N	T	O	K	A	J	M	A	T	I	R	W	L
K	U	R	B	N	E	N	O	S	L	I	W	L	I	K
L	Z	I	N	N	A	N	N	R	E	I	R	R	U	C
I	P	A	C	A	L	C	E	W	A	L	D	O	I	P
N	U	C	E	L	A	R	S	O	N	D	S	E	E	L

Peter Bancroft, F. John Barlow, Richard Bideaux, Lazard Cahn, Bruce Cairncross, Lawrence Conklin, Mick Cooper, Rock Currier, Paul Desautels, Martin Ehrmann, Carl Francis, Marie & Terry Huizing, Bob Jones, Bill Larson, Marty Zinn, Bryan Lees, Tony Nikischer, Herb Obodda, Perkins Sams, Stephen Smale, Stuart Wilensky, Marc Wilson, Wendell Wilson.

The names can be left to right, right to left, top to bottom, bottom to top or diagonally.

Good luck!

Mineral Cootie Catcher

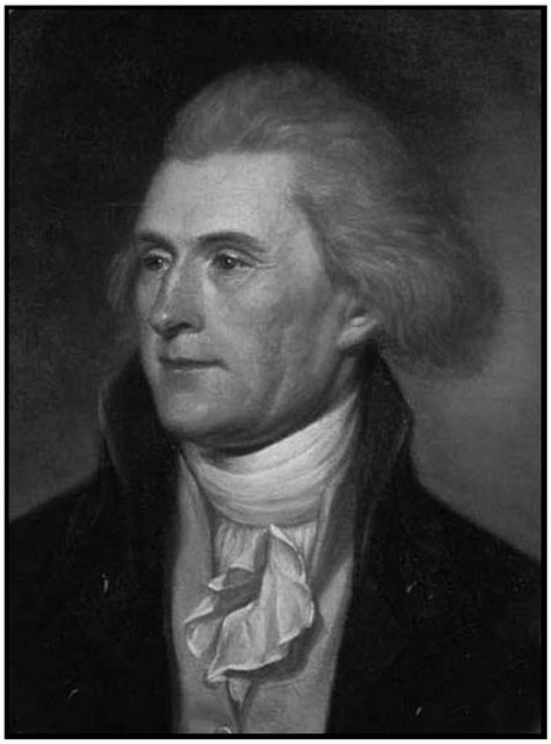


1. Cut out the cootie catcher and fold it in half from the silver corner to the pyrite corner. You will be folding the pictures of the minerals in half. Every time you make a fold, press hard to make a sharp fold in the paper.
2. Open the paper and fold it in half from the fluorite corner to the emerald corner. Again, you will be folding the pictures of the minerals in half. Unfold so you are back to the square.
3. Next, flip it over so the blank side is facing up and fold the mineral picture corners into the center of the creases in the paper. You will now have a smaller square with the four mineral pictures facing you.
4. Flip it over again so that the facts about the minerals are facing up. Fold all four corner points to the center again.
5. Put your two thumbs and two fingers into each of the four flap pockets. The flap pockets are the spaces under the mineral pictures. Use your fingers to press the center creases so that all four flaps meet at a point in the center.

How to play

Have a player choose one of the top four mineral squares. Spell the mineral they chose while you open and close the Cootie Catcher once for each letter in the mineral they selected. The player then selects one of the four numbers on the inside. Open up and down and side to side as you count the number they picked. When you've stopped counting, look inside and let the player choose again. Open and close the right number of times, then choose once more. Open the panel under the number and read the mineral fact under the panel. Play over and over, again and again.

Thomas Jefferson, Mineral Collector?



Thomas Jefferson was born April 13, 1743 and died on July 4, 1826. He was the third President of the United States from the years 1801 through 1809. He was also the most important author of the Declaration of Independence. If you go to Washington, D.C. and visit the Smithsonian Museum, you will see rough drafts of the Declaration of Independence written by Thomas Jefferson. You can even see the lap desk he invented and built that he used when writing the Declaration. He also collected books and had one of the most important book collections (almost 6,500 books) in the early years of the United States. He is famous for being an architect, a paleontologist, an inventor and even the founder of the University of Virginia. However, Thomas Jefferson is most famous for his political leadership when the United States broke away from England and became a new nation on its own. But did you know that he also collected . . . minerals??!!

Now, he didn't collect minerals the way you and I collect them. It seems that he wasn't interested in mineral specimens for their beauty or for their scientific interest. He didn't seem to be interested in their crystal forms or their properties. He was, however, interested in showing the world that the United States had very important mineral resources. As an architect, he designed his own home, which is called *Monticello*. In this wonderful home, Jefferson collected and displayed naturally history objects like fossils and minerals, as well as artifacts from Native Americans. It was his pleasure and goal to show off the natural resources of "The New World."

There was a French scientist and naturalist named Georges-Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon who claimed that all types of minerals (and other resources) found in the United States were inferior to those found in Europe. Jefferson, insulted by this claim, set out to prove that the minerals of the United States were of high quality, too. Eventually he would travel to Europe where he met and visited with European naturalists. He acquired a collection of minerals from Derbyshire, England and gave them to the museum of Charles Willson Peale.

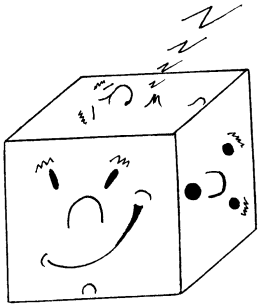
Though Jefferson never collected minerals to enjoy them, trade them and display them the way you and I do, he was a naturalist and was very interested in the natural resources of the Earth, especially of his United States of America. Perhaps you will be able to visit Monticello someday and see the very place where Thomas Jefferson displayed his mineral collection. Unfortunately, the minerals are not there anymore.

"Mineral Faces"

Minerals Named after Mineral Collectors

You probably have noticed that there is a lot of emphasis on the *people* involved in mineralogy and mineral collecting in this issue. It's always interesting, and can be a lot of fun, to learn about the people involved in our hobby and science.

Did you know that a lot of mineral names are based on peoples' names? Some of these people are famous and some are everyday collectors who happened to discover a mineral that no one had ever seen before. Below is a list of mineral names. Use the internet and web sites like MinDat.org and Minrec.org (Mineralogical Record) to discover information about the people behind these mineral names. The mineral name is on the left. On the blank line to the right of the name, write down the full name of the person. You might even want to write a small book with information about each name you find here.



Bixbyite _____

Adamite _____

Braggite _____

Colemanite _____

Glauberite _____

Jamesonite _____

Millerite _____

Scheelite _____

Ulexite _____

Uvarovite _____

Wernerite _____

Wollastonite _____

Kunzite _____

Andradite _____

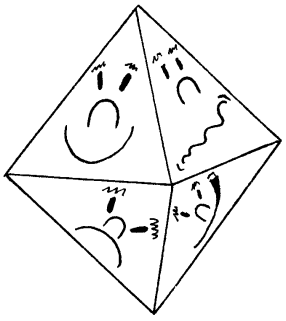
Bournonite _____

Sillimanite _____

Smithsonite _____

Wardite _____

Willemite _____

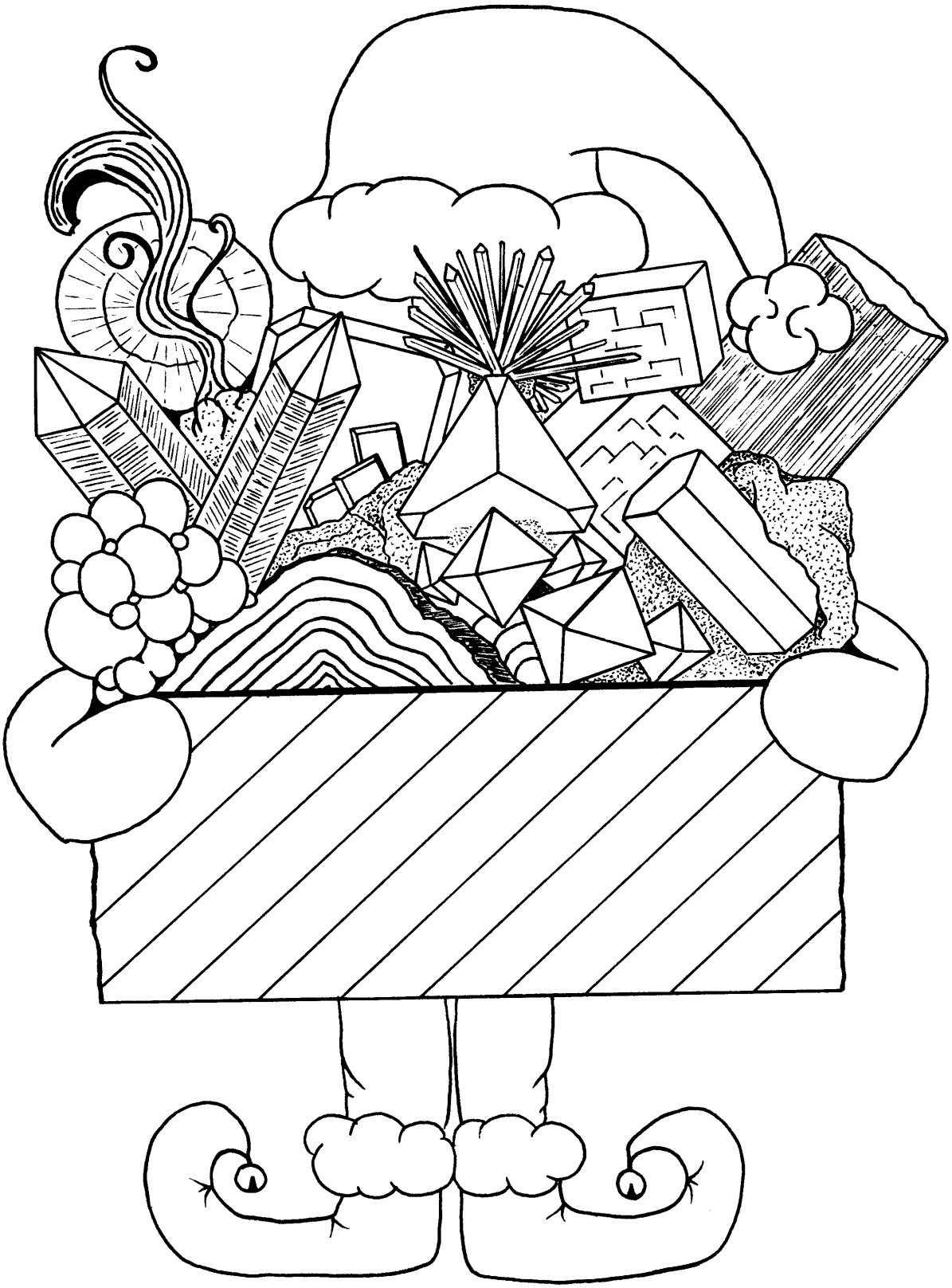


Wavellite _____

Wulfenite _____

Holiday Coloring Page

Our young Mini Miners (and a bunch of our older ones) love to color their mineral pictures. Here's a holiday mineral picture for you to color. Have fun! We'll post a colored version on the Diamond Dan website, www.diamonddanpublications.net



Lewis Feuchtwanger by Darryl Powell

While getting ready for this issue, I discovered information about a very interesting man connected to mineral collecting. Lewis Feuchtwanger was born in 1805 in the country of Bavaria (today Bavaria is a state in the country of Germany). He was a mineralogist and a chemist. In the early years of the history of the United States, the government was not making coins. People were using privately made coins, or silver coins from Europe that they would even cut up and use pieces of silver to buy food and other items.

Popular Treatise on Gems (1867) 3rd edition

Dr. Feuchtwanger designed a number of coins in his lifetime. In 1837, he designed and created a 1-cent coin that he showed to the United States Congress, hoping it would be accepted and used by the United States government as the nation's money. He made hundreds of these coins, but they were never used by the United States government. You can still buy them from coin dealers today (but be prepared: good examples are very, very expensive!)

Coin image from CoinArchives, LLC, 2009. www.coinarchives.com

Glassy Minerals

There are a lot of shiny, glassy things to be seen in December like holiday decorations, ornaments, jewelry and more. Here is a little activity for you to do that highlights minerals with a *glassy luster*. It is in the form of what is called an *acrostic*. The big letters on the left spell "TOURMALINE." Your job is to use the hints to write in the names of minerals that have a glassy luster. Each mineral name starts with a letter in the name "TOURMALINE." You will want to use a mineral handbook or an internet resource like www.mindat.org. Some of the mineral names needed to complete this puzzle will be hard to find! When you are done, create a "Mineral Acrostic" of your own.

T_____ (Hardness is 8)

O_____ (Peridot is a variety of this mineral)

U_____ (This is a variety of garnet)

R_____ (Red corundum)

M_____ (A type of mica. Called "white mica")

A_____ (Has the same chemical formula as teeth)

L_____ (Purple mica. Contains the element *lithium*)

I_____ (A very cold mineral found in the winter)

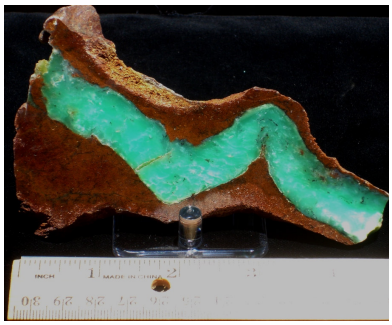
N_____ (A zeolite mineral found as thin crystals)

E_____ (Green beryl)

Mineral of the Month Club

Hello! Our names are Richard & Cheryl Sittinger, and for the last thirteen years, we've been sending excellent quality mineral specimens and fascinating, in-depth write-ups to our Mineral of the Month Club members. Now we'd like to invite you to join our Club!

You'll find our Club is a great way to obtain an excellent specimen at a fair price. Club members have commented time and time again that the minerals we feature typically sell for much more at shows! Plus, shipping is included in the United States, saving you more money! And you'll be amazed by the depth of the mineral write-ups and by how much you'll learn from reading them!



New members receive a free copy of the DK pocket-size book, "Rocks & Minerals."

Club specimens: Above Left: Wulfenite; Below Left: Chrysoprase; Right: Gypsum

www.mineralofthemonthclub.org

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