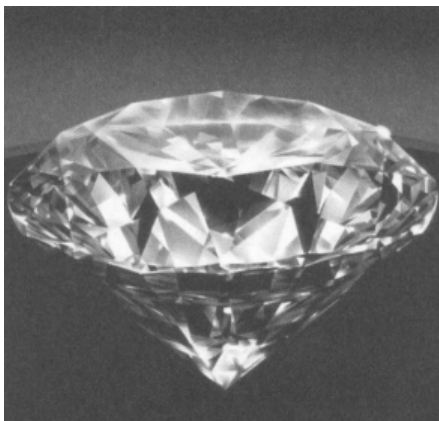


All About Diamonds

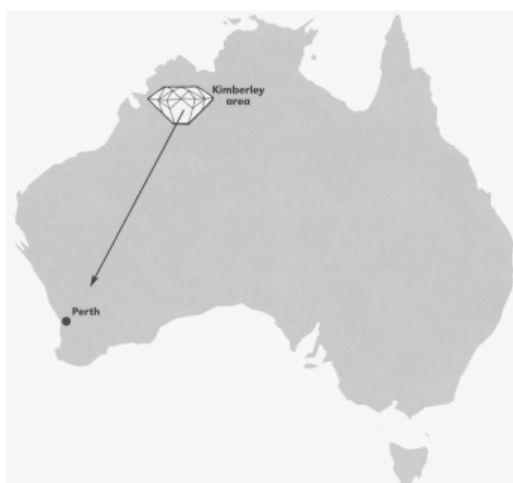
Words that are in **bold** print are explained in the glossary.



De Beers Photographic Library

Which countries do diamonds come from?

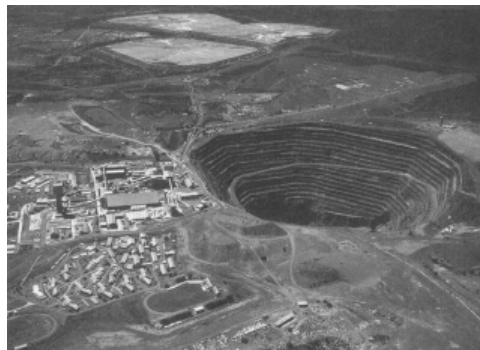
Diamonds were first discovered in India hundreds of years ago, but there are now more than twenty countries that produce and sell diamonds. Today, more diamonds are mined in Australia than any other country in the world. Most of these diamonds are found in the Kimberley area.



Diamonds are taken by aeroplane from the Kimberley area of Australia to Perth, where they are prepared, ready to be sold.

How are diamonds made?

Diamonds are crystals which are formed deep inside the earth. This happens more than 150 kilometres below the ground. Here, it is very hot indeed and rocks are being very strongly squeezed from above.



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A **diamond mine**. Huge machines are used to tunnel into the ground so that the diamonds can be brought to the surface.

When the diamond crystals are found, they look quite dull and smooth.



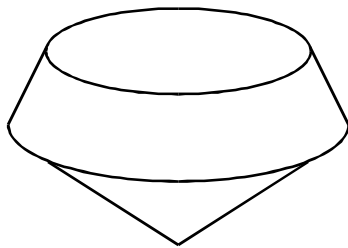
Newly mined diamond

How do you make a diamond sparkle and shine?

A diamond's sparkle is called its fire. To make a diamond sparkle, it has to be cut so that it reflects light. This is done by a specially trained diamond-cutter.

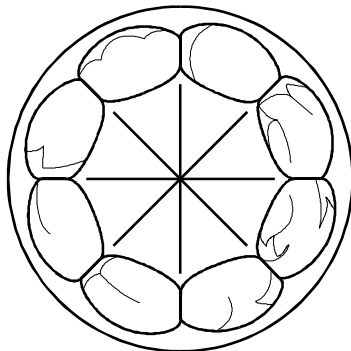
These steps show one way a diamond-cutter can change the diamond into a beautiful **jewel**.

1



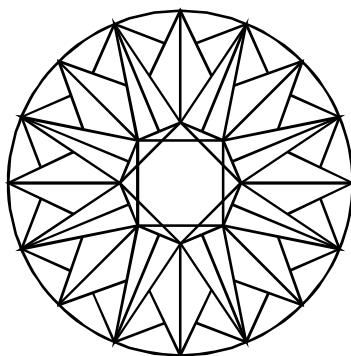
First the diamond crystal is cut in half

2



*Then the diamond-cutter begins to grind flat areas, called **facets**, onto the diamond to change its shape*

3

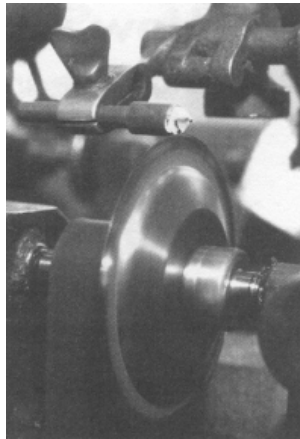


*Fifty-seven **facets** are cut to make the diamond sparkle and shine*

How hard is a diamond?

Diamonds are very hard.

They are harder than glass, metal and wood. Metal wheels with diamond edges are used to grind and cut diamonds. This is because diamonds are so hard that they can only be cut by other diamonds.

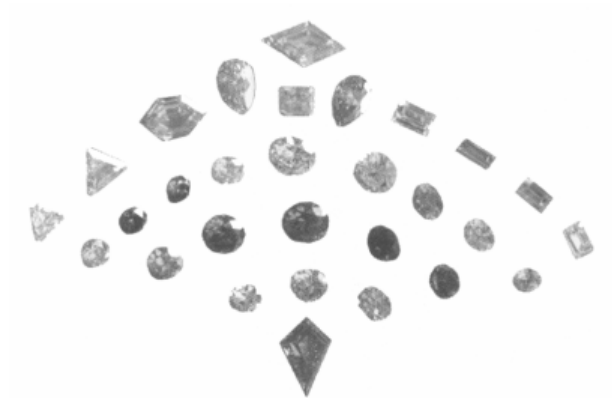


Using a machine to cut a diamond

De Beers Photographic Library

Are all diamonds colourless?

Most diamonds are not coloured, but you can find red, green, pink, blue and yellow diamonds. Red and green diamonds are the most expensive coloured diamonds, because they are very unusual.



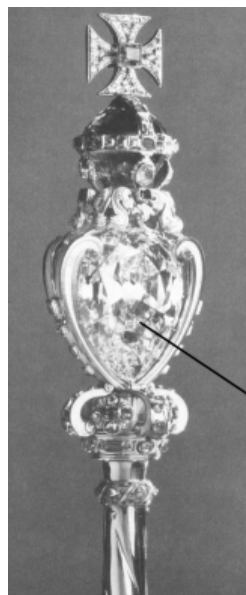
Coloured diamonds.

How much does a diamond cost?

Diamonds are very expensive. The price of a diamond depends on its colour, how clear it is, the way it has been cut, and its weight. A very small diamond costs about £50, but a large diamond can cost over £1 million.

What is the largest cut diamond in the world?

The 'Cullinan I' diamond is famous because it is the largest top-quality cut diamond in the world. It was found in South Africa, and is also known as the 'Star of Africa.'



The 'Cullinan I' diamond

How do people use diamonds?

You may have seen diamond necklaces, rings and other jewellery. However, diamonds are not only used for decoration, they are also used in many other ways.



Diamond ring

Some saws, drills and polishers have diamonds in them. They are useful for these things because they are very hard, so they are good at cutting things.

Diamonds can also be found in hospitals, in the special knives called **scalpels**, which doctors use for operations.



*The **scalpel** has a blade made from metal and diamond dust.*

Glossary

Diamond mine

A place where holes and tunnels are dug deep into the earth, so that diamonds can be brought out of the ground.

Facets

The diamond-cutter grinds flat areas onto the diamond. These flat faces are called facets.

Jewels

Jewels are precious stones that are cut and used to decorate rings, necklaces, other jewellery and ornaments.

Scalpels

Knives with short blades, which are used in hospital operations.

All About Diamonds

1 (a) Where were diamonds first found?

India

America

Australia

England

(b) I found the answer on page

2 (a) What are the two main uses of diamonds?

Tick **2** things.

making stones

decorating hospitals

weighing things

lighting fires

making jewellery

cutting things

(b) I found the answer on page

3 (a) Why is the 'Star of Africa' a famous diamond?

It is from South Africa.

It is the biggest high-quality diamond.

It has not been cut and polished.

It is a colourless diamond.

(b) I found the answer on page

4 What can make a diamond more expensive?

Write **2** different things.

a)

b)

5 Why is it difficult to cut diamonds?

.....

6 What does giving the diamond its fire mean?

selling it

making it hot

making it sparkle

digging it up

7 Put these sentences in the right order by numbering them from **1** to **5**.

The first one has been done for you.

..... The diamond-cutter starts to grind facets.

..... The diamonds are made into jewellery.

..... The diamond-cutter finishes grinding facets,
so that the diamonds sparkle.

.....1..... Diamond crystals are dug up from the ground.

..... The diamond-cutter cuts the diamond in half.

8 What happens in a diamond mine?

- people sell diamonds. People use machines to dig up diamonds.
- People colour diamonds. People make diamond rings.

9 Tick ✓ or cross X these sentences about diamonds to show whether they are true or not.

	✓ or X
Diamonds are used in some tool.	
Diamonds are harder than metal.	
Most diamonds come from India.	
All diamonds are colourless.	
A diamond can cost over 1 million pounds.	

10 Why are headings used in *All About Diamonds*?

- They teach you about alphabetical order. They tell you where the book was made.
- They show what information is on the page. They explain what different words mean.

11 Why is it helpful to have a glossary in *All About Diamonds*?

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