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Who Knew a Girl's Best Friend Was Actually a Mineral?

by Trinity Adams, age 11

Diamonds, commonly referred to as "a girl's best friend," are actually a mineral. Indeed, minerals are useful, valuable, and a large part of every day life. We wear them as jewelry, consume them, and even make them into tools and weapons.

Formed in the Earth's crust, minerals are typically found in small crystal groups or as grains. While over 2,000 types of minerals exist, only 100 are commonly found.

One well-known rock, granite, is actually a mixture of minerals. Less common but also well-known minerals include emerald, sapphire, and ruby. Gems such as these are formed by volcanoes or inside of gas pockets in nearly-forged rocks.

Minerals are crucial natural resources. It is no wonder that gemologists, scientists, and others alike put extensive time and effort into mining them.

[Source: *Simpson Street Free Press*]

