

Name

Period

Date

UNIT 3 HANDOUT

Birthstone Activity

Purpose: To learn the birthstones and if all birthstones are gems.

Month	Birthstone	Actual Name	Hardness	Color
Jan	Garnett (group)	None	6 - 7	Many colors
Feb	Amethyst			Purple
Mar	Aquamarine			
Apr	Diamond			
May	Emerald	Beryl		
Jun	Pearl	Pearl	NA	White
Jul	Ruby			Red
Aug	Peridot			
Sept	Sapphire			Blue
Oct	Tourmaline			
Nov	Topaz			
Dec	Turquoise			

Instructions

1. Visit webmineral.com.
2. Search for the birthstone using the search box in the upper right corner of the page. **NOTE:** Some birthstones go by different technical names. Always use the first result from the search list!
3. Copy the required data. You will have to scroll down to get to the hardness and color. Copy only the first color if it has many colors.
4. When you are done, answer the following questions.

NOTE: For Emerald search for beryl

Analysis Questions

1. Were any of the birthstones the same? If so, which ones? _____
What is the difference between them? (Look at your data) _____
2. What are the characteristics of gems? _____
Which of these birthstones are gems? _____
Why? _____
3. Which of these birthstones is not a mineral? _____
Why? _____