

Worksheet 2 – The Stones The Power of the Stone

A birthstone (or birthday stone) is a gemstone that traditionally represents the month in which a person is born.

Task 1: Identify the birthstone for the month of your birthday. Compose an informative text about this gemstone by including the following information:

- ◇ a general description of the gemstone
- ◇ what it signifies
- ◇ where it can be found
- ◇ modern day uses
- ◇ some historical facts about the gemstone e.g. Is it associated with a ancient myth or legend? Was it believed to have magical or healing powers?

Task 2: Present this information to the class as an oral report using a Smartboard with imported pictures and digital animations to make your presentation more appealing and interesting.

Extension Activities:

- Many ancient cultures believed that certain stones held certain powers. Recreate the table below and complete the missing information (adding more cultures if needed.)

Culture	What did they believe about the powers of stones?
Australian Aborigines	
Native Americans	
Ancient Egyptians	
Hawaiian Islanders	
Aztecs	

- It is still believed by some that stones and crystals have healing powers that can be used to treat some medical ailments. Write an argument text in response to the topic: *Stone and crystal therapies are a legitimate form of alternative medicine.*