



Design with Amethyst

Amethyst is Ontario's official mineral and is recognized as February's birthstone. The mineral amethyst is found in rich supply along Lake Superior's north shore, near Thunder Bay. Amethyst is a very beautiful mineral made up of purple crystals. These crystals are sometimes coated with a reddish brown film from the mineral hematite. Amethyst is often used in jewellery, or in decorative pieces such as clocks, vases, bookends, and even trophies. When it is polished, it is translucent and colourful. Amethyst is in high demand throughout the world.

Provide your students with a sample of amethyst from your **Deeper and Deeper** or **Mining Matters II – The Earth's Crust** kit. Instruct students to examine the amethyst and use it as a model to design a decorative amethyst piece. Students should draw their creation with the following in mind:

- The amethyst decorative piece will be sold to the world market; therefore it needs to have universal appeal.
- The drawing must clearly show the presence of the mineral amethyst in the design.
- The colour and texture of the amethyst in the drawing must be similar to those found in the actual sample of the mineral provided.