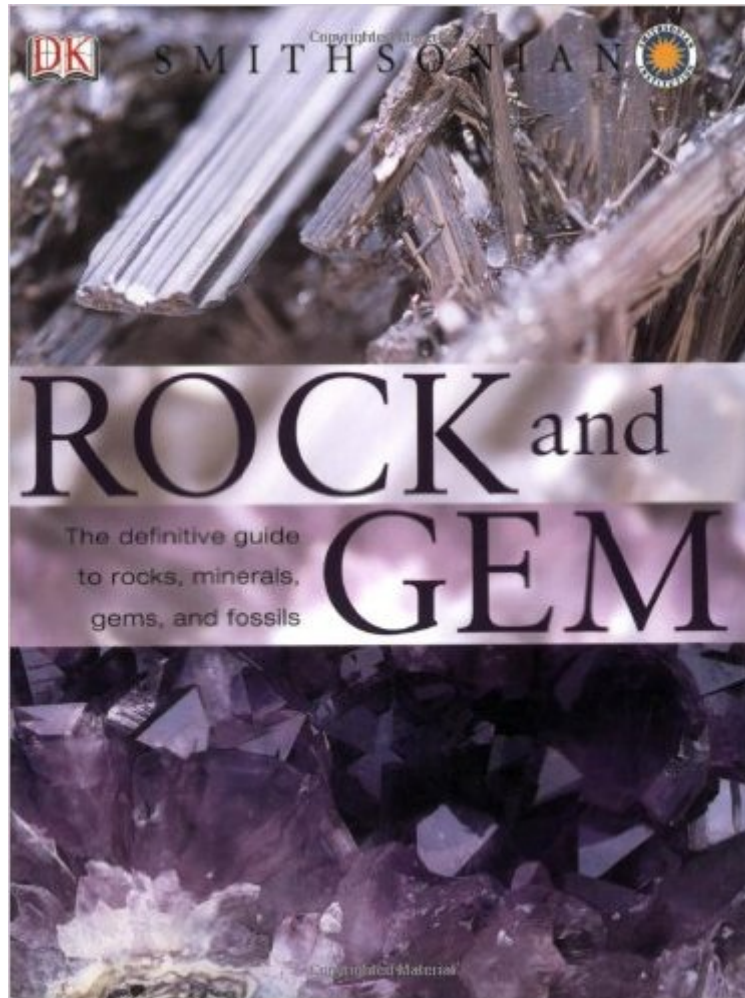


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# Rock And Gem



## Synopsis

Starting with the Big Bang creation of the universe, Bonewitz (a geologist specializing in crystal chemistry with secondary training in archaeology per his New Age spiritually-oriented Web site) introduces types of rocks, minerals, gemstones, and fossils to novice collectors. The well-illustrated guide, published in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution, includes a glossary but no further reading or resources.

## Book Information

Series: Rock and Gem The definitive guide to rocks, minerals, gems and fossils

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Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (63 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #92,699 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Field Guides > Rocks & Minerals](#) #38 in [Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Rocks & Minerals](#) #3120 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors](#)

## Customer Reviews

What a beautiful book! This coffee table book on rocks and minerals is absolutely stunning. The book is divided into 4 sections: 1. Origins, focusing on the evolution of the Earth and the universe, and how and why minerals are formed. 2. Rocks, a species-by-species guide to the major sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rocks. 3. Minerals, a species-by-species guide to the key minerals (silicates, oxides, sulfates, etc.). 4. Fossils, showing fossils of the major taxonomic groups. The strength of the book is sections 2 and 3. Almost every page has jaw-dropping photographs of high-quality museum specimens of rocks and minerals (principally from the Oxford University Museum of Natural History), interspersed with great stock photography. On a visual basis, this book leaves its competition in the dust. The accompanying text is interesting as well, particularly in its explanations of how various minerals (and their component elements) are used in modern society. The species-by-species descriptions are interrupted by sidebars on interesting topics (the Taj Mahal, the Hope Diamond, the Petrified Forest, etc.). To make this book an ideal

stand-alone volume on rocks and minerals, some of the space devoted to individual rock, mineral, and fossil descriptions should have been allocated instead to more general topics. Instead of 100 pages on individual silicate minerals, for example, the book could have used more detailed information on rock collecting, mineral properties, and mineral extraction (mining). Still, this comes closer to being an all-in-one guide to rocks and minerals for the layperson than any other book I have come across.

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