

Mineral Spotlight: Barite

The pictured specimen comes from the Meikle Mine in Nevada. Prospectors developed this mine to extract gold, but when they discovered pockets of exceptional golden-hued barite crystals, they allowed other parties to extract them for research, education, private collections, and museums.

Key facts:

- The name barite comes from the Greek term "barys," which means "heavy."
- Barite specimens can form in the shape of a rose; one example is on display in the museum.
- Playing cards contain barite to make them heavier.

