

Mineral Spotlight: Zincite

Don't get too spooked by this Halloween-themed Mineral of the Week! Zincite is zinc oxide (ZnO). Exceedingly rare in nature (with the exception of one locality in New Jersey), most well-crystallized pieces of zincite are manmade, like the pieces in the Museum. This Frankenstein-like manmade mineral is a byproduct of zinc smelting – our Museum pieces come from a zinc refinery in Katowice, Upper Silesia, Poland. Synthetic zincite crystals can range from colorless to red, orange, yellow, or green. This piece displays some beautiful shades of maroon and gold – go Knights!

Zinc has a wide range of uses across industries. One of the largest uses of zinc in industry is to galvanize metals, protecting them from corrosion. It's also involved in the production of brass and bronze, agriculture, and even medicine (zinc is important for nutrition).

This feature was posted on Dice Museum social media by Museum curator Jillian Herlinger on 10/24/2022.

