

## Mineral Spotlight: Corundum Var. Ruby

This week's Mineral of the Week is Corundum, specifically the ruby variety since it's February and "Love Rocks" season at the Dice Museum! Corundum is an aluminum oxide with a Moh's hardness rating of 9. The pinkish color of the corundum comes from very small traces of chromium. The crystals themselves are usually hexagonal prisms that tend to be quite small.

Due to their high hardness rating and beautiful appearance, ruby is often used for jewelry. Much of the gem-quality ruby is found in Myanmar, Thailand, and Sri Lanka, where it can be found in gravels and alluvial deposits or in crystalline limestone. In the US, ruby is more rare, occurring less commonly in North Carolina and Montana.

This feature was created by curator Andrew Mulder and posted on Dice Museum social media on 2/6/2023.

