

## Mineral Spotlight: Diopside

If diopside's forest green color looks emerald-like to you, you're not alone: this mineral was discovered officially in 1797 when miners in Kazakhstan thought they hit an emerald jackpot and sent some away for testing (it, of course, turned out to be diopside). Its distinctive color is due to the copper in its composition. Though it's too soft to be a well-used gemstone, when it forms crystals, their quality is superb.

Diopside is commonly found in areas that are deserts today. Though officially identified for the first time in 1797, diopside was used in pigments adorning statues from Neolithic settlements in the Mesopotamian region.

Three of our four museum samples are from the country of Namibia, but it can also be found in Kazakhstan, Iran, Argentina, Chile, and the US. Stop by the museum to get your diopside sticker and view the samples on display!

This feature was posted on Dice Museum social media on 6/8/2022.

