

Mineral Spotlight: Labradorite

This is a mid-range member of the plagioclase feldspars. This mineral rarely forms euhedral crystals, but when it does, they are usually in tabular form. This mineral was first discovered at Paul Island, Labrador, Canada by missionaries.

Labradorite exhibits a type of Schiller Effect, which produces a mixture of iridescent colors when the mineral is viewed a certain way. The Schiller Effect occurs when light is scattered from a second feldspar crystal that grows inside a first through internal chemical separation during cooling. Labradorite is found in eruptive rocks (anorthosites) and metamorphic rocks. This mineral is used in making of ceramics and basic refractories.

This feature was posted on Dice Museum social media by Museum docent Gregory Ian Oduor on 7/29/2021. It has since been edited to fit a web-based format.

