

## Mineral Spotlight: Morganite

This week's mineral is morganite, a pink variety of beryl. Beryl ( $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_3)_6$ ) is a ring silicate, meaning its silicate structure forms rings. This often results in an elongate, hexagonal crystal form, as seen in slide 1. Morganite is pink due to impurities of manganese (Mn).

When pink beryl was first discovered in 1910 off the coast of Madagascar, the name "Morganite" was proposed by George Kunz, famous gemologist and friend of financier J.P. Morgan, in honor of his best customer. Indeed, Morgan was quite the avid gem collector – together with Kunz, he assembled a collection of over 1000 pieces which now reside at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Today, morganite is enjoying a wave of popularity as an engagement ring stone due to its high hardness and beautiful blush color.

Visit the museum to see our two beautiful morganite samples on display as well as our newest case of dreamy pink minerals

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