

Mineral Spotlight: Rutilated Quartz

This week's Mineral of the Week is a dazzling variety of quartz: rutilated quartz! It contains the minerals quartz and rutile, with the rutile being the hair or needle-like inclusions. On its own, quartz is one of the most commonly found minerals on the earth. It is a silicate mineral with a hardness of 7, a hexagonal or trigonal crystal system, and it exhibits a vitreous luster.

However, this more unique variety of quartz contains more than just quartz. Enclosed within the quartz are needle-like pieces of rutile. The embedded rutile is a result of hydrothermal processes. The rutile needles are often gold colored and are randomly oriented throughout this quartz crystal. Brazil is one of the primary localities for this unique variety of quartz.

This feature was created by curator Andrew Mulder and posted on Dice Museum social media on 01/16/2023

