

Mineral Spotlight: Spinel

To celebrate Valentine's day this week, we have another red mineral for this week's Mineral of the Week: Spinel! Spinel is part of the oxides group of minerals and can be found in green, blue, black, red and other colors. The brilliant red color of this spinel comes from traces of chromium. It looks similar to rubies, which is why many historic rubies were actually just spinel.

Spinel occurs in a variety of settings and can be found in mafic igneous rocks, as well as in some metamorphosed limestones or other aluminum-rich rocks. It can be found across the world, in places like Australia, Russia, the US, and others. Most notably, spinel is cut as a gemstone due to its high hardness of 7 1/2–8 on Moh's scale.

This feature was created by curator Andrew Mulder and posted on Dice Museum social media on 2/14/2023

