

*W5 (who where what why when)
What is the biggest naturally made
diamond in the World?*



THE BIGGEST DIAMOND IN THE WORLD.... *(Looks like MINE!)*

On January 25, 1905, at the Premier Mine in Pretoria, South Africa, a 3,106-carat diamond is discovered during a routine inspection by the mine's superintendent. Weighing 1.33 pounds, and christened the "Cullinan," it was the largest diamond ever found.

Frederick Wells was 18 feet below the earth's surface when he spotted a flash of starlight embedded in the wall just above him. His discovery was presented that same afternoon to Sir Thomas Cullinan, who owned the mine. Cullinan then sold the diamond to the Transvaal provincial government, which presented the stone to Britain's King Edward VII as a birthday gift. Worried that the diamond might be stolen in transit from Africa to London, Edward arranged to send a phony diamond aboard a steamer ship loaded with detectives as a diversionary tactic. While the decoy slowly made its way from Africa on the ship, the Cullinan was sent to England in a plain box.

Edward entrusted the cutting of the Cullinan to Joseph Asscher, head of the Asscher Diamond Company of Amsterdam. Asscher, who had cut the famous Excelsior Diamond, a 971-carat diamond found in 1893, studied the stone for six months before attempting the cut. On his first attempt, the steel blade broke, with no effect on the diamond. On the second attempt, the diamond shattered exactly as planned; Asscher then fainted from nervous exhaustion.

The Cullinan was later cut into nine large stones and about 100 smaller ones, valued at millions of dollars all told. The largest stone is called the “Star of Africa I,” or “Cullinan I,” and at 530 carats, it is the largest-cut fine-quality colorless diamond in the world. The second largest stone, the “Star of Africa II” or “Cullinan II,” is 317 carats. Both of these stones, as well as the “Cullinan III,” are on display in the [Tower of London](#) with Britain’s other crown jewels; the Cullinan I is mounted in the British Sovereign’s Royal Scepter, while the Cullinan II sits in the Imperial State Crown.

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KEEP READING THERE’S MORE!

The Second Biggest Diamond in the World



The Sewelô diamond is the second largest rough diamond ever found. The diamond was recovered in April 2019 by the Lucara Diamond Corp in its Karowe mine in Botswana. The diamond is 1,758 carats and weighs 352 grams. The gem was named through a competition held by Lucara. (Lucara is the name of the mining company that discovered it).

Citation- Wikipedia

After some more research, I discovered that they don't really know what is inside the diamond! Is it pure? Is it perfect? Is it clear? That will affect its value. It could be still discovered that it is "industrial grade!" (Which means it is great for being cut up for heads of specialized drills- NOT for jewellery made for royalty!) WHAT???

*I have been thinking. What makes a rock like this **worth** about 53 million dollars? Why would anyone pay that much money- for a **ROCK**?*

*What makes it SO valuable? Is it that rare? Is it art? Is it an investment? It's a **ROCK**!*

Hint: It takes about 3billion years to form!

Isn't it all so interesting?

*How are diamonds made? If you take a look at **Bill Nye's Rocks and soil** video (see button on website page) you will find out!*

It is a 23 min video (all good stuff!) but if you don't have time, go to 17:20 to find out about how diamonds are formed.....

What about Synthetic Diamonds? (Man-made) how are they made?

Wikipedia says:

Synthetic diamond (also known as laboratory-grown **diamond**, laboratory-created **diamond**, or cultured **diamond**) is **diamond** produced by a controlled process, as opposed to natural **diamond** which is created by geological processes.

Real and synthetic (or cultured) diamonds have the same properties (***made of the same stuff***) as **natural diamonds**, the only difference is that they are **grown** in a lab within weeks, whereas **natural diamonds** are **formed** in the earth over millions and millions of years.