

# What's In a Name?

Below are a number of minerals names and three choices for the origin or meaning of the name. Do you know where these mineral names came from?

## 1. Diamond is named after

- Diamondas, an island near Australia where large diamonds are found.
- The Greek word *adamas* which means *invincible*.
- Sir William Neil Diamond, a famous mineralogist from England.



## 2. Labradorite is named after

- one of "Man's Best Friends", the Labrador Retriever.
- the Latin word *labradorium* which means *shines with colors*.
- Labrador, Canada where large masses of this variety of feldspar are found.



## 3. Gypsum is named after

- the Greek word *gypsos* which means *plaster*.
- the Gypsum mountain range in eastern Texas.
- the name given to a group of European people who traveled from one place to another. They are known as *Gypsies*.

## 4. Muscovite, a variety of mica,

- is named after
- Vladimir Muscovy, a famous Russian mineral collector who first discovered this mineral.
  - the old Russian phrase "muscovium flexum" which means "flexible muscovite."
  - the name for old Russia which was once known by the name *Muscovy*.



## 5. Smithsonite was named after

- James Smithson, a British chemist and mineralogist.
- the Smithsonian Institution, the national museum of the United States of America.
- the English mineralogist Albert Smith, who was the son of Henry Smith.

Answers:  
1. b; 2. c; 3. a; 4. c; 5. a