State Gem

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CHLORASTROLITE (GREENSTONE)

Chlorastrolite, the official State Gem, is a mineral that is formed in association with lava flows. Its common name, "greenstone," comes from its green color. Typical gems have a pattern of overlapping edges, ranging from yellow-green to almost black. Chlorastrolite is derived from three Latin words: "*chloros*," meaning green; "*aster*," meaning star; and "*lithos*," meaning stone. In Michigan, chlorastrolite pebbles can be found on rocky beaches in Northern Michigan's "copper country," particularly on Isle Royale.

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This image shows Chlorastrolite in its raw, unpolished form. Greenstones are quite uncommon with gem varieties found only in Michigan. The usual size varies between 1/8 and 1/2 inch. Gem-quality stones larger than 1/2 inch are rarely found for sale and a stone of gem-quality larger than 3/4 inch is museum material.

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