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| Sapphires are highly prized gemstones of rare beauty that are found naturally, and can be produced in a laboratory. They are a variety of the mineral corundum. The hardness of sapphires is second only to the hardness of diamonds, and this is why they are so highly valued.  Tiny quantities of elements like iron, titanium, chromium, copper or magnesium make them appear different colours—from blue, purple and pink to orange, yellow and brown. Red sapphire has always been known as ruby.  Sapphires occur in igneous or metamorphic rock and are mostly retrieved from alluvial  deposits. |
| **Your Notes:** |