





## **Willemite gemstone**

Earth and Planetary Sciences

MGMH #GEM1794

Franklin, New Jersey. Recut from J. Bradshaw.

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From the Geology collections at the Harvard Museum of Natural History

It is difficult to imagine a mineral that evokes the sun more than this shimmering willemite gemstone. Recut from a poorly proportioned 36.88 carat stone, this specimen sparkles with much greater life now and, at 29.66 carats, is among the world's largest cut Willemite. With a mineral hardness score of only 5.5 out of 10, willemite is very difficult to cut and polish due to its softness and fragility. This makes our sunny gemstone even more unique. Willemite is a zinc silicate mineral ( $Zn_2SiO_4$ ) and a minor ore of zinc that can vary in color from deep red to yellow, brown, pink, gray, blue, or green. The willemite used in this gemstone is from the Franklin and Sterling Hill Mines in New Jersey, the best known localities for Willemite in the world.

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