

# AGAMS - Kids Corner

Augusta Gem and Mineral Society | June 2026

\*\*\* Welcome, Young Rockhound! \*\*\*

## ACTIVITY 1: Make a Color-Changing "Gem"

Some minerals look different colors depending on the light! Try this experiment to see color-change magic at home.

### What You Need:

- Clear plastic cup or glass
- Water
- Blue and red food coloring
- White paper
- A flashlight

### Steps:

1. Fill the cup with water.
2. Add 2 drops of blue food coloring and stir.
3. Hold the cup up to a window in sunlight -- look through the side. What color do you see?
4. Now shine your flashlight through the top, looking down. What color appears?
5. Add 1 drop of red coloring and repeat -- watch the colors shift!

*WHY? Light scatters differently depending on direction of travel through water -- just like in real alexandrite!*

## ACTIVITY 2: Make Your Own Fossil Impression

Real fossils form when plants or animals are pressed into mud that hardens over millions of years. Make your own fossil in minutes!

### What You Need:

- Air-dry clay or salt dough (flour + salt + water)
- A leaf, shell, or plastic toy dinosaur
- Rolling pin or smooth bottle

### Steps:

1. Roll or flatten your clay into a smooth circle about the size of your hand.
2. Press your leaf, shell, or toy firmly into the clay.
3. Carefully peel it away -- you should see a perfect impression left behind!
4. Let it dry overnight. Paint or decorate when dry.

*TIP: Try different objects and compare the impressions -- which one shows the most detail?*

## JUNE FUN FACTS About Gems & Fossils

- >> June's birthstone is PEARL -- the only gem made by a living creature!
- >> Alexandrite appears GREEN in sunlight and RED in lamplight -- a true color-changer!
- >> The oldest fossils are 3.5 BILLION years old -- tiny organisms from Australia.
- >> Ammonite fossils in Georgia form beautiful spirals millions of years in the making.

## JUNE VOCABULARY -- Rockhound Word Bank

<b>Fossil:</b>	The preserved remains or trace of an ancient plant or animal.
<b>Impression:</b>	A mark or print left by pressing an object into a soft material.
<b>Alexandrite:</b>	A rare gem known for changing color depending on the light source.
<b>Pearl:</b>	A smooth, shiny gem formed inside a mollusk around a tiny irritant.
<b>Mineral:</b>	A naturally occurring solid substance -- the building block of rocks!