

# Fun Ideas With Gems

*For Teens, Tweens, and  
Creative Parents*

With Graduate Gemologist  
Elizabeth Van Tassel



## Interested in Rocks and Gems?



Cameo of Jupiter, Roman, AD 50

## Become a Gem Investigator

Your local museum may have great exhibits as well as minerals, jewels, or gems owned by famous people from history. Look up their calendars and plan to visit an exhibit.

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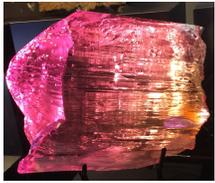
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## 10 Great Ideas for Connecting with Jewelry and Gemstones

1. Grow your own crystals – Use a kit from the Smithsonian and grow them in your kitchen. It's fascinating to wake up every day and watch them change!
2. Visit your nearby natural history museum. Look for great gem and mineral halls to walk through. The exhibits are amazing!
3. Enjoy a fun website sponsored by the Gemological Institute of America that tells you about how gems are made, jewelry through the ages, and more at <http://gemkids.gia.edu/>.
4. Carry gem books with you when you go investigate, and



For more information, check out [ElizabethVanTassel.com](http://ElizabethVanTassel.com)



See gems like these on Elizabeth's YouTube Channel with gem tours, real-life jewel mysteries, and more.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbfGSIrOGjwywnyAto0IQKA>



really understand what you're looking at (see right for some suggestions).

5. Visit a rock or bead show. Sometimes there are great local small shows where you can touch the rocks and visit a pretty location while learning more.
6. Research the state fair. Some have great exhibits about rocks where you can see carvings and very rare specimens on display.
7. Tumble some rocks using a rock tumbler. It makes them shiny and is fun to watch, too.
8. Make a flower pot base using the tumbled rocks: <http://rocktumbler.com/tips/uses-for-tumbled-stones/>.
9. Research where there are mines to visit nearby. Whether it's a gold rush location or a visit to rock mines in your local area, it's a great way to spend the day. At some mines, you may be able to go through the rough to take samples home.
10. Join your local gem and mineral society. They have rock shows where you can get pretty specimens for small amounts of money. Here's an international site with upcoming shows: <http://10times.com/usa/gems-jewelry/tradeshows>.



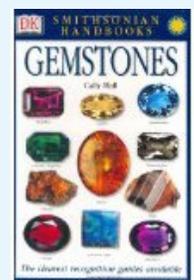
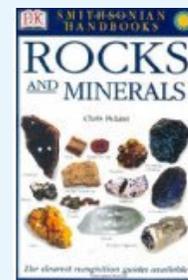
As a gemologist, Elizabeth Van Tassel has worked with diamonds and beautiful gems. But she also has survived a wildfire and persevered through miracles and great loss. A resilience expert, Elizabeth helps others shorten their path to wholeness through her writing, speaking, blogging and on-line resources. Described as a "modern-day Madeline L'Engle", her whimsical gem-studded fantasy adventures give the next generation lessons and characters that teach them to thrive.

[ElizabethVanTassel.com](http://ElizabethVanTassel.com)/Twitter: @ElizVanTassel/Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/elizabethvantassel/>



## Minerals, Rocks and Gems

The Smithsonian Handbooks are the best I've seen for describing gems and making sense of their origin. The photos are outstanding too. They're small enough to bring along to rock shows or museums in your backpack.



## Prospecting TV Show

The Weather Channel has an entertaining show about families that search for gems like citrine, aqua marine, and topaz among others in the mountains of Colorado. It's fun to watch them dig up the big ones and you can see how hard they have to work to find them.