

“Treasures of the Earth”©

Syllabus

Caribbean Islands

“Treasures of the Earth”© encourages, inspires and stimulates people of all ages in the workplace, in education and in the community. Creativity is a critical component in K-12 education. Creativity increases SAT scores, improves academic performance and problem-solving skills, redirects at-risk students, and is essential to the ultimate development of a skilled creative workforce. Creativity affirms and celebrates individuals. Beyond intrinsic value creativity stimulates global thinking and fosters an appreciation and understanding of various cultures.

This program is the perfect place for the next generation of aspiring gemologists, jewellery designers & producers, stone buyers, scientists, and more. Each program varies in length depending on target audience and can integrate the following subjects: Geology, Gemology, Geography, Geometry (Ancient math metric, modern measurements, Troy system of Weight) History, Earth History, Mineralogy, Crystal structure, Physical Science, Jewelry designing (drawing, rendering), Metallurgy (Precious Metals and alloys) Ancient and modern Coins and other related topics; Jewelry industry business management, accounting, etc.

Youth (Ages 7-14)

A presentation for youth ~ a peek into the remarkable world of gemstones ~ literally. With a flashlight in hand, youth will explore play of colour, stars, cat’s eyes and more. Then, each young person will draw a design of his or her own creation. Examples of .999 fine gold, .999 fine silver, and Copper will be presented, along with various gemstone specimens, cut and faceted gemstones.

At the end of the presentation, each participant will be able to select a gemstone to take home with him or her. They will be invited to design a piece or pieces of jewellery using their chosen gemstone as inspiration (no instruction for drawing is given during this exercise, as each person is allowed the opportunity for their individual creativity to surface). Incorporating the stone into the design, they will be asked to colour the design in nearly actual colours, and then compose a word description of their design. As each session ends, each participant will share their design with the group, with comments of each person’s expressed originality and creativity.

Young Adults (Ages 15-18)

Interactive session with practice using standard tools of the trade ~ microscope, loupe, tweezers and gem cloth ~ to examine a wide array of gems. Examples of .999 fine gold, .999 fine silver and Copper will be presented, along with various gemstone specimens, cut and faceted gemstones.

Adults (Ages 19 +)

More formal study opportunities are available with the apprenticeship program, subject specific workshops and seminars. GIA instructors travel to St. Thomas to present world-class studies periodically at Rare Earth Studio.

*(Example of Caribbean Islands regional presentation outline):
Gemstones*

Caribbean Islands

Diamonds (Guyana) (volcanic, alluvial)

Pectolite (Larimar), Dominican Republic (mineral)

"Larimar" named after the discoverer's daughter Lari (Mar = Sea)

Basalt (Blue Bit), St. Thomas (volcanic)

Local stone found on the walkways in St. Thomas and St. John

Amber (organic fossil resin from evergreen trees) Dominican

Republic

Copalite (organic fossil resin from tropical trees) Dominican

Republic

Onyx, Dominican Republic (mineral)

Mother of Pearl (organic)

Carved Conch Shell (organic) & Conch Pearls

Coral (organic) (found on beaches washed ashore by natural forces)

Pearls (organic) (Can be farmed for sustainability)

Precious Metals - Gold, Silver & Copper

In the Sea

Guyana, S.A.

British Virgin Islands

Refining & Alloying - Gold ~ 24K .9999 fine pure gold

22K - .990 fine gold (natural state)

18K - .750 fine gold (alloyed w/copper & silver)

Silver ~ .999 fine, .975, .950 or .925 Sterling

Copper - pure (used for alloy)

Gemstone Production & Studies ~ Cutting/Faceting/Carving; Gemological Institute of America
Gemology studies

Production: Wroughting, forging, fabrication, wax sculpturing; ancient lost wax casting method of
jewellery production; Lapidary production (cutting & polishing gemstones)

References: Rocks and Minerals, Frederick H. Pough
Gemstones of the World, Walter Schumann
Metal Techniques for Craftsmen, Oppi Untracht
Guide to Gems and Precious Stones, Simon & Schuster
Gems and Jewelry, Joel Arem

Presenter ~

Ivanne Farr

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