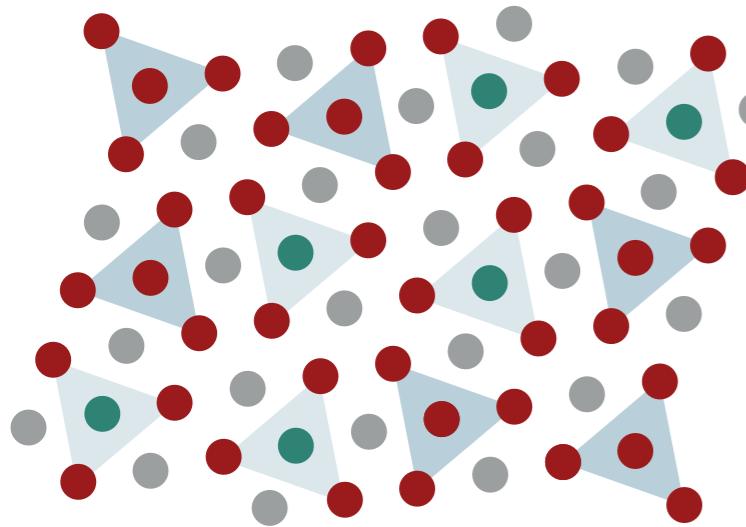


THE COLOUR OF ALEXANDRITE



ALEXANDRITE STRUCTURE

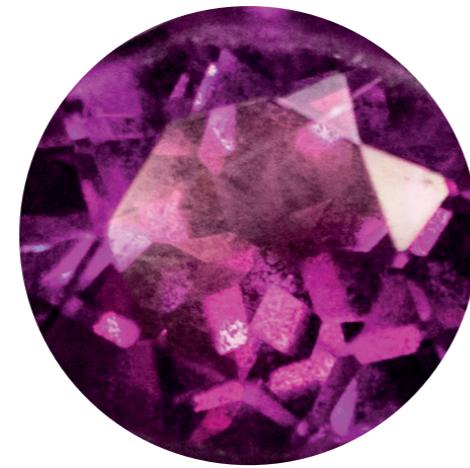
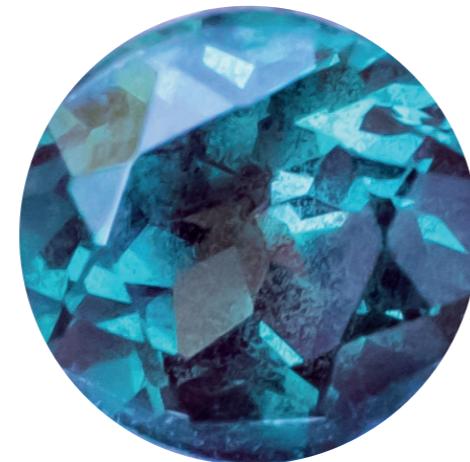
chemical formula: Al_2BeO_4

● = Al = BeO_4 tetrahedra



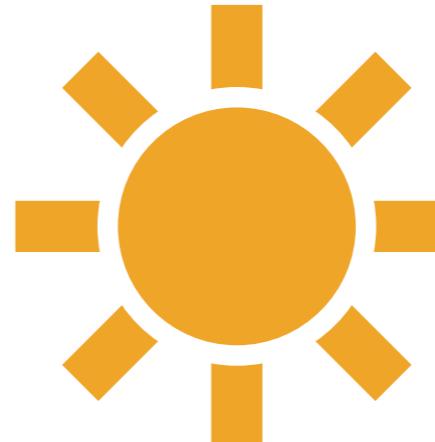
(occurs in <0.5% of aluminium sites)

Alexandrite's colour is due to small amounts of chromium impurities. These cause it to absorb some colours of light while others pass through.

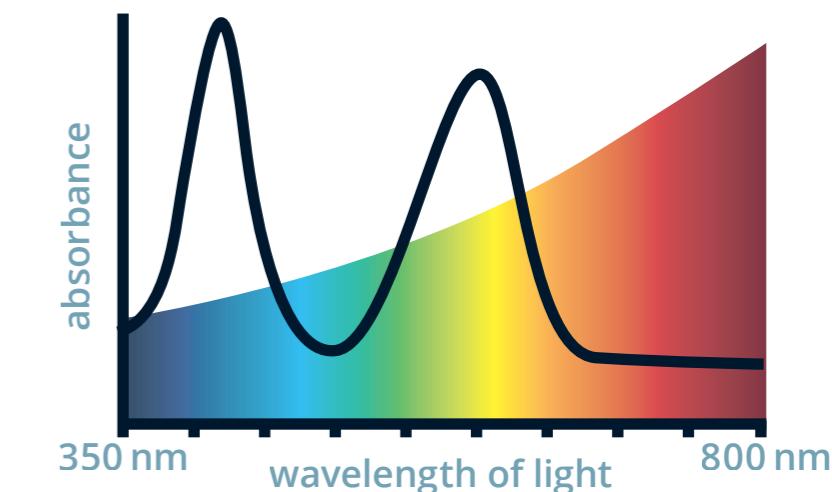
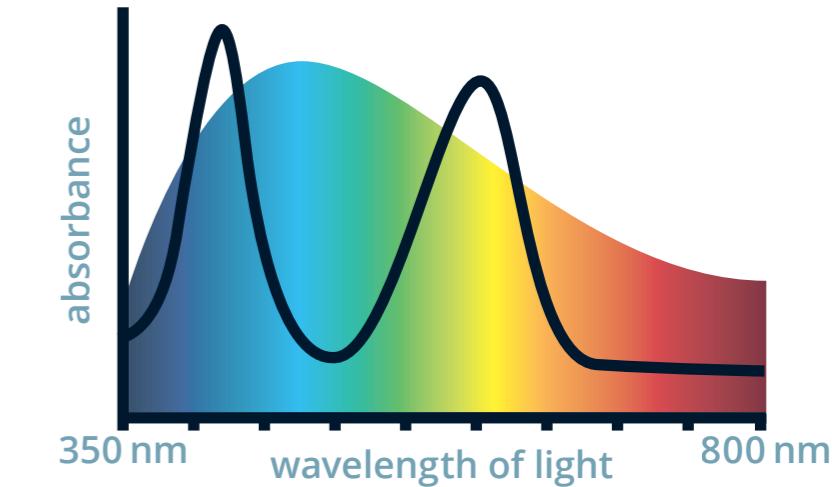


ALEXANDRITE

formula: Al_2BeO_4



LIGHT TYPE



LIGHT SPECTRUM

solid line: alexandrite absorbance

Alexandrite appears blue-green in sunlight because not much blue or green light is absorbed. In incandescent light, alexandrite appears purple-red; this is because incandescent light contains a greater amount of red light than sunlight, as well as much less blue and green light.

