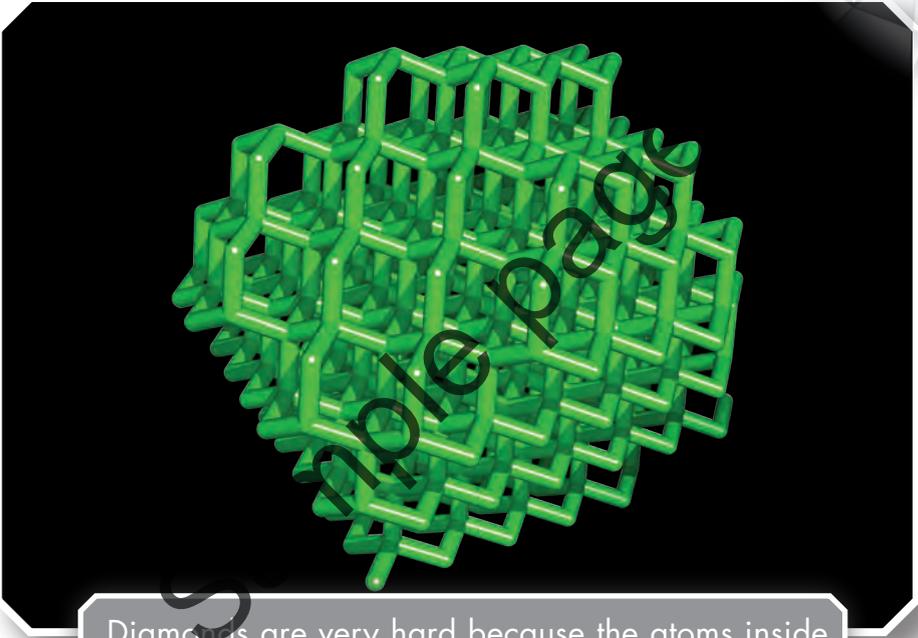


What Is a Diamond?

Diamonds are crystals. They are made up of the element carbon. Diamonds are formed deep within the earth's core when carbon is heated to a very high temperature and has a lot of pressure put on it.



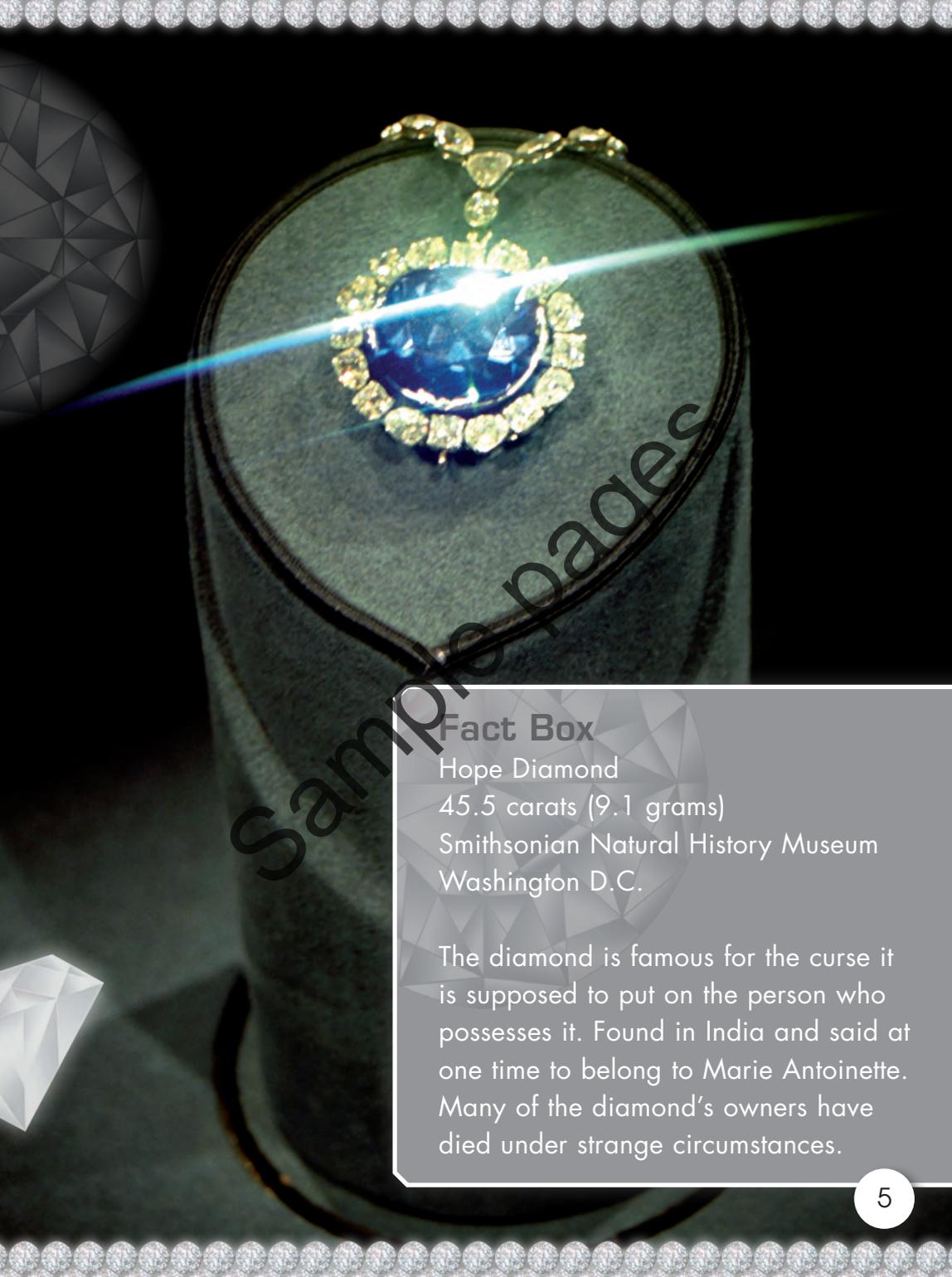
Diamonds are very hard because the atoms inside them are very strongly joined under pressure.

Glossary

carbon: a non-metal substance found in diamonds

crystal: a special mineral or stone

pressure: a continuous force put on an object by another



Fact Box

Hope Diamond

45.5 carats (9.1 grams)

Smithsonian Natural History Museum

Washington D.C.

The diamond is famous for the curse it is supposed to put on the person who possesses it. Found in India and said at one time to belong to Marie Antoinette. Many of the diamond's owners have died under strange circumstances.