

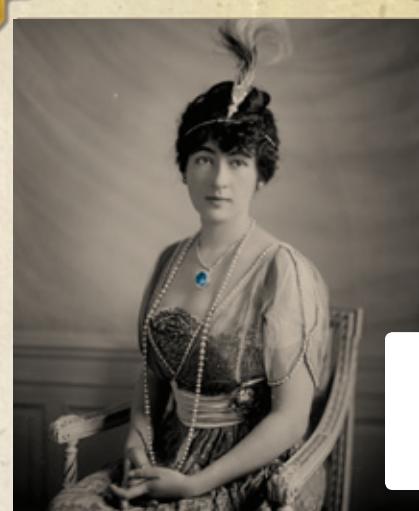
**TRY THIS
AT HOME!**

READ ALL ABOUT THE HOPE DIAMOND, THEN SKETCH IT AND TRY THE POP QUIZ ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE.

The Hope Diamond today. Have you seen it?



THE TRUE STORY OF



Washington socialite Evalyn Walsh McLean wears the Hope Diamond.

THE HOPE DIAMOND has had a mighty long journey from its original home deep in the earth to its current home in the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Formed over a billion years ago, it was uncovered in a mine in India almost 400 years ago. From the moment it was found, people knew it was something special. Like all diamonds, the Hope Diamond was rough and uncut, not shiny or sparkly, when it was found. But it was huge—nearly the size of a golf ball! And it was not clear, or “white,” like common diamonds—it was blue. After it was cut and polished, its rare dark blue color was even more breathtaking.

Since its discovery, the blue diamond has been sold a great many times and even stolen once! It belonged to kings and queens, as well as to plain old rich folks around the world. It was cut and re-cut taking it from its **ORIGINAL SIZE OF OVER 112 CARATS** (the size of a golf ball) to its present size of 45.52 carats.



CHECK IT OUT!
THE HOPE DIAMOND GLOWS AFTER EXPOSURE TO UV LIGHT. THIS IS CALLED PHOSPHORESCENCE (FOSS-FOR-RESS-ENSE). SEE IT HERE!

Some say there is a **CURSE OF BAD LUCK** connected to the Hope Diamond. Throughout history there have been many tragic stories told about its owners being murdered, jailed, injured, and more.

FEAR NOT. Most historians who have studied the story of the Hope Diamond are pretty sure that the curse and tales of woe were made up by a clever jewelry salesman trying to appeal to a special buyer who liked “unlucky” objects.

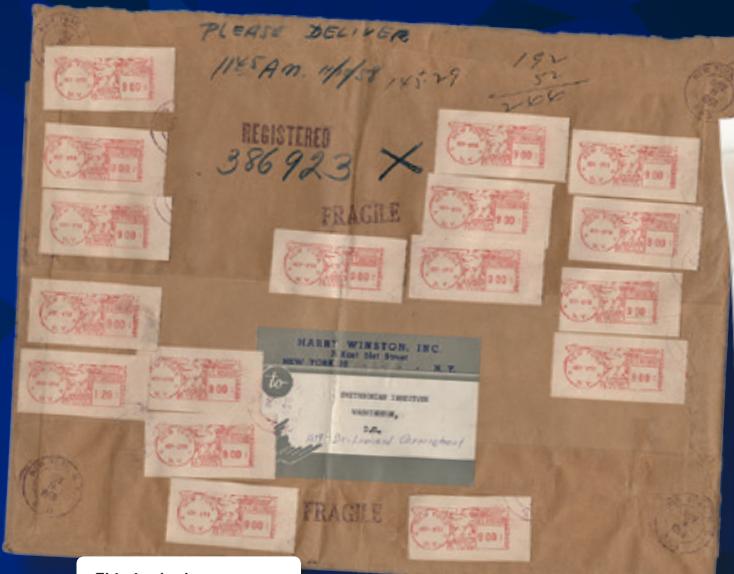
That special buyer was a ritzy Washington, DC, socialite named Evalyn Walsh McLean. Evalyn was a wealthy woman with a weakness for fine jewels and a belief that objects that were unlucky for others were lucky for her. She owned the Hope Diamond from 1911 until she died in 1947. She wore it like a special badge of honor, and some say she even let her dog wear it on his collar from time-to-time.

Wow!



THE HOPE DIAMOND

A man named Harry Winston bought Evalyn's entire jewelry collection after her death, including the Hope Diamond. Eventually, he donated it to the Smithsonian Institution to start a national gem collection. In 1958, Mr. Winston mailed the Hope Diamond to the Smithsonian in a brown paper package!



This is the brown paper package that the Hope Diamond arrived in.

SKETCH THE
HOPE DIAMOND HERE:

QUICK
SKETCH

DID YOU KNOW?

THE HOPE DIAMOND WAS ONCE CALLED THE "FRENCH BLUE." IT GOT ITS CURRENT NAME FROM A PREVIOUS OWNER, A WEALTHY ENGLISH BANKER NAMED HENRY PHILIP HOPE. IF YOU COULD GIVE IT A NEW NAME, WHAT WOULD YOU CALL IT?

Today **THE HOPE DIAMOND BELONGS TO YOU!** Yes, as a part of the Smithsonian's gem collection, the diamond belongs to the people of the United States. But don't get your hopes up. You won't be wearing the Hope Diamond anytime soon. And neither will your dog!

POP
QUIZ

1. How much does the Hope Diamond weigh?
 - a. about 25 carats
 - b. about 45 carats
 - c. about 105 carats
2. What is a carat?
 - a. the price of a precious gemstone
 - b. a unit for measuring the weight of a precious stone
 - c. a crunchy orange vegetable
3. What gives the Hope Diamond its blue color?
 - a. a very small amount of boron inside the diamond
 - b. a special blue light that shines on the diamond
 - c. blue food coloring

Answers: 1. b. 2. b. 3. a