The first reported discovery of sapphires in the U.S. was in 1960, by miners seeking gold in great quantities along the Missouri River near Helena, Montana. These early miners sought gold and sapphires for their collectible value rather than for their potential as gems. In the 1970s, sapphires were once again discovered in other deposits in southwestern Montana. The most famous deposits were discovered when sapphires found in gravel were traced to the igneous dikes at Yogo, in central Montana, in 1965. From about 1960 until the late 1970s, Montana developed sapphires from a number of localities, but they were mostly used as rough gems, with lesser amounts of polished gems. Several of the Montana sapphire discoveries were made in the 1980s and 1990s, resulting in the production of some of the most highly prized gemstones in the world. Today, the Montana sapphire industry is focused on producing high-quality gemstones for the global market. Sapphires and rubies are both solid solutions of aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃). Rubies are those minerals that have an aluminum percentage of 100%, while sapphires can have aluminum percentages from 96% to 100%. The mineral corundum is the host for these minerals, which are sometimes found in association with diamond and other gemstones. The actual color of a sapphire depends on trace-metal impurities, which can change the mineral's optical properties and make it a durable stone. With its combination of color, weight, clarity, and cut, a sapphire is a highly valuable gemstone. The Montana sapphire deposits are known for their high-quality sapphires, which are typically found in the same area as the rubies. Sapphires and rubies are both solid solutions of aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃). Rubies are those minerals that have an aluminum percentage of 100%, while sapphires can have aluminum percentages from 96% to 100%. The mineral corundum is the host for these minerals, which are sometimes found in association with diamond and other gemstones. The actual color of a sapphire depends on trace-metal impurities, which can change the mineral's optical properties and make it a durable stone. With its combination of color, weight, clarity, and cut, a sapphire is a highly valuable gemstone. The Montana sapphire deposits are known for their high-quality sapphires, which are typically found in the same area as the rubies.