



## Lapis Lazuli



One of the most significant stones in world history, Lapis Lazuli has been mined in Afghanistan as early as the 7th millennium BC! It was used for the eyebrows on the funeral mask of King Tutankhamun.

Technically, it is a mix of Lazurite and calcite, pyrite is a common inclusion. There are many different grades of Lapis Lazuli, the best being pure azure blue with minimal calcite. Although pyrite is considered an inclusion in Lapis Lazuli, if the stone is cut to display bands of pyrite, it is still highly sought after.



Girl with a Pearl Earring by Dutch Johannes Vermeer was painted in 1665 using ultramarine, a natural pigment made from Lapis Lazuli.



This carving believed to date back to the Chinese Qing Dynasty (1644–1912) was acquired by The Crystal Caves in 2007. It is of the same era as the carving referred to William Butler Yeats' poem 'Lapis Lazuli' about the carving given to him on his 17th birthday