



Agate



Agate is a common cryptocrystalline silicate which occurs readily in various countries in the world including Brazil, Mexico, Botswana and Australia. Agate forms in layers when siliceous matter is deposited into the hollows

or cavities of volcanic rocks. While agate does come in a variety of colours, the Brazilians have become ingenious at dying Agate into bright colours by first boiling the whole stone in strong bicarbonate then soaking it in various solutions depending on the desired colour, example:

Red: Iron nitrate

Green: Nickel nitrate

Brown: Sugar

Blue: red prussiate of potassium



René collected several tonne of Australian Agate from Agate Creek (Near Forsyth, North Queensland) in the early 60's. He continues to cut and polish these stones in his workshop on the Atherton Tablelands in his retirement years. There is still lucrative fossicking at Agate Creek today.

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