



# Diamonds

By Chris Harrington



# Stage 1: Mining

## Mining:

- 92% of diamond mining is underground
- Deep mines can be 3,500 feet deep
- Sometimes jet engines are needed to thaw the frozen rock so mining is easier.
- Only 20% of mined diamonds are suitable for polishing and manufacturing diamonds for jewelry
- Human rights issues is a major issue with mining diamonds

## Largest Mines:

1. Russia
  - Largest diamond producer in the world
  - 39 million carats of diamonds
  - 3.5 billion dollars in revenue
  - Known for fluorescent diamonds which brings down value
2. Botswana
  - 23.2 million carats of diamonds
  - 3.63 billion dollars in revenue
  - Greenish diamond which increases value



# Stage 2 & 3: Rough Diamonds and Manufacturing



## Rough Diamonds:

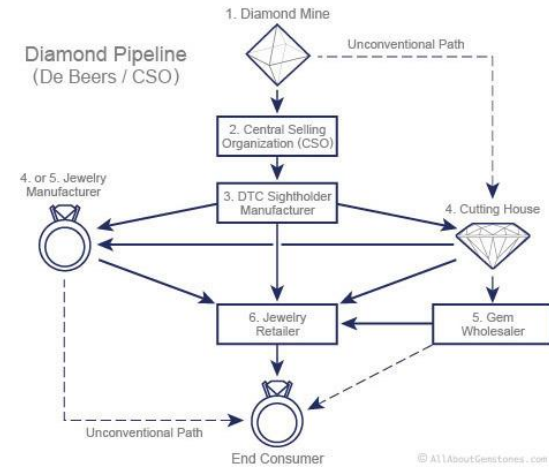
- Go through the De Beers Central Selling Organization
- There are 5000 different types of diamonds and are broken into different categories that will signify their worth
- Then they are sold to 128 different manufacturers

## Manufacturing:

- The rough diamonds go to World Cutting Centers
- Multiple locations such as Israel, Bombay, New York etc.
- Examined to see how the diamond should be cut to maximize profit
- Three factors they look at: size, number, and position of internal flaws
- Then the diamonds are either sawed or cleaved.
- Then they are polished and bought out by companies like Kay Jewelers

## Import:

- In 2016, the United States imported 4.5 million carats of diamonds
- 86% of the United States diamond come from Belgium, Israel, and India



# Issues with Diamonds

## 1. Appropriation of land

- Diamond mining is very demanding on the earth
- Some of the diamond mines are 3500 feet deep and create huge craters
- Once the mine is closed, they don't fill up the area and leave the area with devastating impacts

## 2. Labor conditions

- Diamond workers are usually exploited and uses child labor
- Millions of diamond miners in African make less than a dollar a day
- Miners work in very unsafe conditions without training, safety equipment or tools
- During civil wars, they will take control of the mines and force poor working conditions
  - Forced labor, beatings, torture, and murder
- Refer to diamonds mined by war rebels as "blood diamonds"

## 3. Environmental impact

- Poor diamond mining has led to irrigation issues, large craters, deforestation, and dangerous waterways
- Have re-routed water ways to allow diamond miners an easier time mining and has destroyed fish ecosystems.
- These large craters fill with rainwater, don't drain, attract mosquitoes, and spread malaria.





# How to Help



## Issues

- A lot of diamonds are mined from unfair labor practices
- Most companies do not display the diamond mine their products come from
- Blood Diamonds although banned by the UN, are still being bought by corrupt governments like Zimbabwe.

## Your Impact

- Ask where the diamonds are from
  - A good jeweler will know where their supply is from
- Urge companies to display what diamond mine their products come from
  - Easier to boycott certain companies that use unfair trade practices
- Join Brilliant Earth's Campaign
  - They work on stopping the sale of blood diamonds and restricting mining techniques that affect the Earth harmfully



# Works Cited



<https://www.valentinmagro.com/diamonds/about-diamond>

<https://www.diamonds.net/News/NewsItem.aspx?ArticleID=62584&ArticleTitle=Who+Are+the+Top+Rough+Buyers%3F>

<https://www.cnn.com/style/article/diamonds-under-earth-surface-trnd-style/index.html>

<https://www.brilliantearth.com/conflict-diamond-facts/>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/05/10/diamond-trade-still-fuels-human-suffering><https://www.valentinmagro.com/diamonds/about-diamond>

<https://www.diamonds.net/News/NewsItem.aspx?ArticleID=62584&ArticleTitle=Who+Are+the+Top+Rough+Buyers%3F>

<https://www.cnn.com/style/article/diamonds-under-earth-surface-trnd-style/index.html>

<https://www.brilliantearth.com/conflict-diamond-facts/>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/05/10/diamond-trade-still-fuels-human-suffering>

<https://www.tigweb.org/themes/diamonds/issues/>

<https://reliefweb.int/report/sierra-leone/us-civil-society-calls-upon-diamond-industry-boycott-conflict-diamonds>

<https://time.com/4013735/how-to-buy-an-ethical-diamond/>