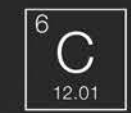


# The pretty vs. gritty truth about DIAMONDS

Diamonds are known for their value as precious gems, but darker, less glamorous issues are involved when it comes to their production, sale and supply. Artisan mining, which happens in areas where the world's large diamond companies are not present, causes many human right, social and environmental issues.

## FAMOUS FOR



Pure Carbon



Hardest substance



Engagement rings



60<sup>th</sup> anniversary



The round brilliant is the most popular cut. Typically it has 33 flat polished surfaces, called facets, in the crown and 58 facets in the pavilion.

## ALLUVIAL DIAMOND MINING

Alluvial diamonds are deposited in river beds, the ocean floor or the shoreline. Mining these diamonds from sand, gravel and clay is often informal and unregulated. More people in the world are involved in informal than formal mining.

## ARTISAN MINING

A type of alluvial mining, artisan, or small-scale, mining is typically practiced in underprivileged and remote rural areas by people with little education and few other employment options. Almost all these miners are unregistered, unprotected and unregulated doing difficult and dangerous work to make little profit.

1 million diggers in Africa    250,000 diggers in South America    less than \$1 average daily wage for diggers

## CONFLICT DIAMONDS

### WHAT ARE THEY?

Starting in the 1990s, uncut unpolished diamonds, also called blood diamonds, entered international diamond markets from regions controlled by rebel forces. These diamonds funded armed conflict and civil war. Since the early 2000s, trade has decreased from 15 percent of total worldwide trade to less than 1 percent.

### How do they affect warfare?

These diamonds are often not the cause of war, but rather make existing conflicts worse by supporting violence in diamond-rich areas. Rebel forces and warlords have used these diamonds to buy weapons, fuel and other supplies for their illegal activities.

### What areas are involved?

Blood diamonds have been linked to conflict in several African countries, including Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone. While much of this violence has decreased significantly, conflict diamonds from Ivory Coast and Liberia are reaching the market. Some non-governmental organizations also believe that conflict diamonds are funding terrorist groups like Al Qaeda, though the claim has been difficult to prove.

### What is being done?

The United Nations placed sanctions on suspected markets from 1998 to 2000. Afterwards, the diamond industry collaborated with governments of major diamond-trading countries to track diamond trade, reduce violence and restore consumers' faith with a plan called the Kimberley Process. Since the plan's execution, the conflict diamond trade has decreased, but it is still difficult to track because of existing loopholes in policy.

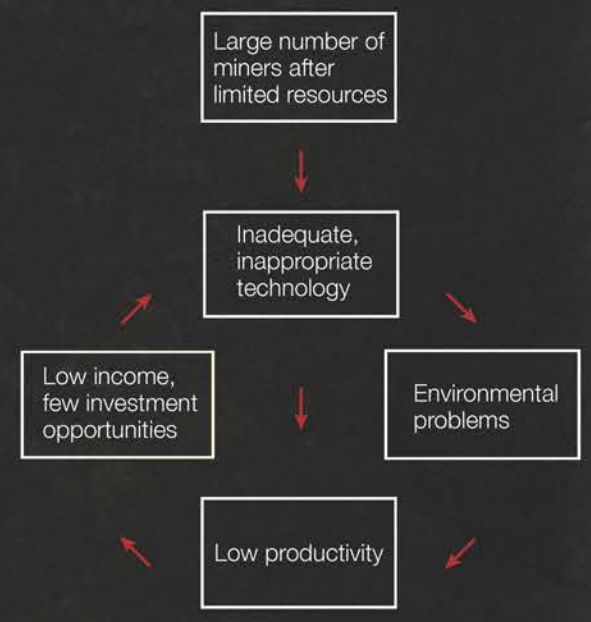
### What can consumers do?

Once a diamond is brought into the market, its origin becomes difficult to trace. Once polished, it can no longer be identified. Consumers can help stop conflict diamond trade by asking sellers for a guarantee or certificate to prove that the diamonds being sold are conflict-free.

## THE ISSUES

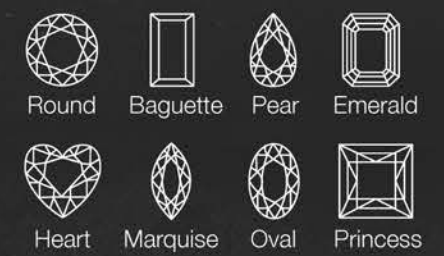
- Poverty
- Child labor
- HIV/AIDS
- Prostitution
- Water pollution
- Environmental degradation
- Corruption of civil servants

## THE POVERTY TRAP



## THE FOUR GRADING CRITERIA

- CARAT**  
A measurement of weight found by using an electronic balance. The weight of a polished round brilliant diamond can be estimated by measuring its diameter.  
1 carat = 0.2 grams
- CLARITY**  
Clarity grades describe the amount of imperfections. Most natural diamonds have fractures or embedded foreign material. Facets created when polishing the stone are used to hide these flaws.
- COLOR**  
Most diamonds are slightly yellow colored. The D-Z grading scale goes from colorless, D, to light yellow, Z. Other colors exist but are not graded by scale due to their rarity.  
DEF GHJKLM NOPQR STUWVWXYZ
- CUT**  
The shape of a polished stone describes its look from above. Facets are created on the gem to control how light reflects in it.



## DIAMOND PRODUCING COUNTRIES

Of the 144,000 million diamond carats produced in the world in 2010, around 56 percent were used for gemstones while 44 percent were used for industrial purposes.



2011's largest reserves in millions of carats	
Kongo-Kinshasa	150
Botswana	130
Australia	110
South Africa	70
Russia	40
China	10

Sources: Amnesty International; Facts On File News Services; Diamond Development Initiative; "The History and Use of Diamonds" S. Tolansky; "The Nature of Diamonds" George E. Harlow; United Nations Department of Public Affairs; U.S. Geological Survey; The World Bank; World Diamond Council