

# GEMIS

The Official Newsletter of The Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society  
a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization



November 2015

Hello Rockhounds,

As I sit here writing, hearing the wind howling and the rain drumming on my roof, I realize that the time for rock collecting in 2015 is almost over here in Michigan. All is not lost! The snow doesn't fall (that often!) down south or out west. Collecting opportunities abound. Arkansas, North Carolina, Arizona, New Mexico, just to name a few.

Now you are thinking, "I've heard of these places, but how do I know where to go in these states?" The process of finding a spot to Rock Hound isn't that hard. You could go to the Internet and do research, that will get you a list of AREAS to explore, but not specific LOCATIONS in those areas.

There are Guides to Rock Hounding the different states, but most of those are Pay Sites, or worse, areas that are picked over by all the other Rock Hounds that don't know where to look. So what's a person to do? Easy. Go to one of the different sites on the internet that list Rock and Mineral Clubs in the states or areas you wish to visit! I like Bob's Rock Shop's List, but there are plenty of other sites. Once there, look up the Clubs Contact Person or Field Trip Coordinator, and drop them a line. Explain when you will be in the area and what you might be looking for. Or, check out when their Field Trips might be and to where. Ask about tagging along on their trips. Remember, their members are invited on trips first. Be polite. Join their Club. And remember, you are representing our club on a trip..... Quick tip to endure you to their club? On a few trips Sue and I have made, we brought Michigan specific rocks for gifts and trade. Never hurts to smooth the way with a few rocks...After all, they are volunteering their time and expertise to make your trip successful! Ask what equipment to bring, don't forget the basics. Eye protection, boots, gloves and a hard hat.

The board meeting is scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup>. the day after the Michigan deer hunting opener... Location to be announced.

December 8<sup>th</sup> is our Annual Pot Luck and gift exchange. The club is supplying the main dish (thanks Bill!) and drinks. Bring a dish to pass, and a place setting. The gift exchange is not mandatory. If you wish to participate, bring a rock related wrapped gift to trade. Much food, fun and a few surprises are planned! Be there!

Next month I will be writing about tumbling the prizes you brought home from your Rock Hounding trips.

Thanks for reading my ramblings.



*David Haas,*  
KGMS President

The article below was submitted by Kitty Starbuck, Thanks for the article!

**EXTRA HIGH POLISH** by Leslie Brooks, Boeing Employees Mineral Society

To put an extra high polish on a cabochon or a flat, first polish in the normal manner, then buff with a used sheet of "Bounce", or similar fabric softener sheet. A used sheet seems to work better than a new one (it has been transformed by heat in the drying process.) I have not

tried other brands, but I believe the result should be the same. This trick has worked for me on several different materials. The result is a noticeable shine. I do not know if it is the chemical agent, or the texture of the sheet... whatever the reason, it WORKS!!!

Via MWF Newsletter, 9/93.

NOTE: I sure hope Snuggle works!

dp



TOPAZ

# NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!

4th Larry Grueter  
10th Matthew Crum  
20th Avika Jayatilaka



CITRINE

## NOVEMBER BIRTHSTONES

Two gems are appropriate for November birthdays - Topaz and Citrine . Today, citrine, a stone that ranges from pale yellow to orange-brown, is accepted as November's birthstone because of its abundance and affordable price. However, you may not know that topaz is November's original birthstone.

### TOPAZ

The ancient Egyptians and Romans associated this golden gem with the sun god giving it the power to protect and heal. Legend says that topaz dispels enchantment. With its worldwide mass appeal throughout the centuries, once you find that perfect Topaz you'll soon be under its spell.

Topaz is a gemstone available in a rich rainbow of colors. Prized for several thousand years in antiquity, all yellow gems in antiquity were called topaz. Often confused with citrine quartz (yellow) and smoky quartz (brown), quartz and topaz are separate and unrelated mineral species.

The most prized color of topaz is called Imperial topaz after the Russian Czars of the 1800's and features a magnificent orange body color with pinkish undertones. Topaz also comes in yellow, pink, purple, orange, and the many popular blue tones.

The most prized color of Topaz is called Imperial Topaz and features a magnificent orange with pink undertones. Blue, once the most rare color of Topaz, is the most common today due to man's ability to enhance its color; Topaz with a naturally blue color is very rare.

### CITRINE

#### HISTORY OF CITRINE

The first civilization thought to wear citrine (a yellow variety of quartz) were the Romans, who shaped it into cabochon—polished but uncut facets of stone worn in jewelry.

During the Romantic Period in turn-of-the-century Europe, citrine became more popular for the way it visually enhances gold jewelry. Citrine, like all forms of quartz, was believed to have magical powers and was worn as protection against evil and snake venom poisoning.

Citrine, the other birthstone for November is known as the "healing quartz". This golden gemstone is said to support vitality and health while encouraging and guiding hope, energy and warmth within the wearer. Citrine can be found in a variety of shades ranging from pastel yellow to dark brownish orange. It is one of the most affordable of gemstones and plentiful in nature. Citrine is found most frequently in Brazil, Bolivia, and Spain.

#### SCIENCE OF CITRINE

Some citrine actually began as purple amethyst, but heat from nearby molten rock changed it to a warm yellow color. Citrine is one of the less-common varieties of quartz, and it ranges from a pale yellow to a dark amber that's named Madeira for its resemblance to the red wine of Portugal.

Source: most the information came from: [http://www.burkemuseum.org/geology/birthstones\\_no](http://www.burkemuseum.org/geology/birthstones_no)

Photography by Ron Eng, Burke Museum geology collections manager.



## Geological Sayings and Proverbs

Proverbs based on rocks refer to both the objective and symbolic qualities of stones—their permanence and resistance; their weight, inertness and contrast to living things; their imperviousness, obstruction and infertility; their strength, passivity and stolidity; their anonymity, single-mindedness and monotony.

Geologists know these things about rocks, but they also know rocks as tellers of stories and sensitive recorders of the conditions that created them. Compared to other people, geologists are rock whisperers.

If there is one central saying in geology, it is this: "The best geologist is the one who has seen the most rocks."

Eggs have no business dancing with stones. (Various)

United we are a rock, divided we are sand. (African)

Show no fear to the man who picks up a big stone. (Arab)

You cannot get blood from a stone. (Various)

The ship that will not obey the rudder will obey the rocks instead. (European)

A rock in the middle of the sea is never afraid of the rain. (African)

Slander will not destroy an honest person: when the flood recedes, the rock is there. (Chinese)

The stone in the water does not know how hot the hill is, parched by the sun. (Nigerian)

If a man believes in a stone, that stone will serve him well. (Arab)

Even the stone you trip on is part of your destiny. (Japanese)

A rock offered by a friend is like an apple. (Sicilian)

A rolling stone gathers no moss. (European)

Those who remove mountains begin by taking away pebbles. (Various)

Men trip not on mountains; they stumble on stones. (Chinese)

You buy land, you buy stones; you buy meat, you buy bones. (African)

Insults must be written in sand and compliments carved in stone. (Arab)

by Andrew Alden, About.com,

Via December 12 Pick and Shovel, Long Beach Gem and Mineral Society

## November's upcoming events

14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> WARREN, IL Northwest Illinois Rock Club Annual Show, Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Student Conference Center, Highland Community College, 2999 W. Pearl City Rd., Freeport Contact: Brian Green, (815) 745-2228; email: [bgreen57@gmail.com](mailto:bgreen57@gmail.com); website: <http://nwirockclubfrpt.blogspot.com>

# T-REX & Dinosaurs Crossword Puzzle

## Across

3. SPEED - Hunting prey on powerful back legs, short distances, up to \_\_\_\_ mph
4. HEAD - Over \_\_\_\_ feet an they had terrifyingly powerful jaws
6. T-Rex's \_\_\_\_ could be about 3 feet long.
8. Tyrannosaurus Rex means \_\_\_\_\_
11. T. Rex were one of the biggest \_\_\_\_\_ eaters
12. Most dinosaurs had 144 more \_\_\_\_\_ than adult humans do, that's about 350 altogether.
13. SPEED - hunting prey on powerful \_\_\_\_ legs, short distances, up to 20 mph
14. Largest T. Rex tooth found is \_\_\_\_ inches long.
15. T. Rex had a rather \_\_\_\_ brain for a dinosaur, which helped it hunt better.
16. Named by \_\_\_\_ Fairfield Osborn in 1905
18. The \_\_\_\_ of a Brachiosaurus were the size of a soccer ball
19. \_\_\_\_ of a triceratops were almost as tall as an adult human!

## Down

1. T Rex was a huge predator with small arms, three-fingered hands, which of the fingers were very tiny?
2. What was found in Temple in Cambodia
4. T. Rex length was up to \_\_\_\_ feet
5. Biggest & best preserved skeleton is "Sue". She was named after the woman who discovered it.
7. T Rex weighed more than a garbage truck, like at least \_\_\_\_ tons
9. LIVED: \_\_\_\_\_ period, about 65 to 85 million years ago
10. What fossils suggests dinosaurs ate grass
17. What limb of T. Rex's grew only about 3 ft long

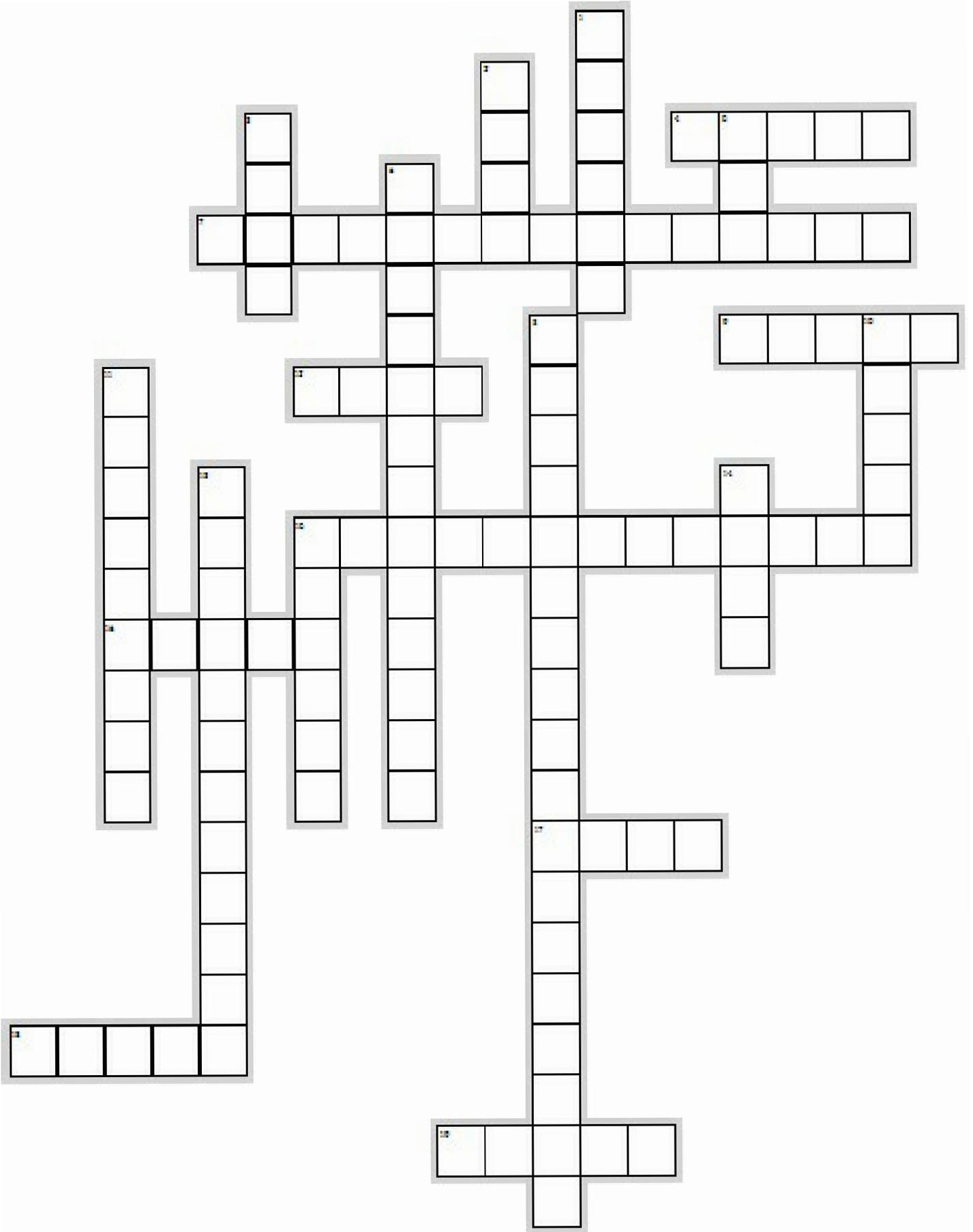
Puzzle grid next page and answers you will find on page 7 by the kids' word search.



HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING  
KGMS!



# T-REX Crossword Puzzle



# Easy Dinosaur Word Search

U W C F Y U M  
 G X Y E G G X  
 D S N U E E Y  
 J U J N B I G  
 R N F D I N O  
 E C C F S O M  
 X N V B O N E

big  
 bone  
 dino  
 egg  
 rex



# T-REX Puzzle answers

A crossword puzzle grid with the following words filled in:

- 1 Across: T W E N
- 2 Across: F O R T Y
- 3 Across: M E T
- 4 Across: F O R T Y
- 5 Across: A C C E O U S
- 6 Across: U N
- 7 Across: L A T E
- 8 Across: C R E T
- 9 Across: T Y A C C E O U S
- 10 Across: E I G H T
- 11 Across: C O C K
- 12 Across: B A C K
- 13 Across: S O S
- 14 Across: T Y A N
- 15 Across: T W E L V E
- 16 Across: R A N
- 17 Across: A R M S
- 18 Across: B O N E
- 19 Across: H E N
- 20 Across: R O N
- 21 Across: P O R T
- 22 Across: A R T
- 23 Across: S E A U R U S
- 24 Across: D U R U S
- 25 Across: T A R T
- 26 Across: I L L
- 27 Across: Z A R M S
- 28 Across: L I T
- 29 Across: U R U S

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## **MEETINGS**

Monthly meetings are the first Tuesday of each month except:  
January, July and August - 6:30 pm Social Hour 7:00 pm Meeting  
Location: Portage Senior Center  
320 Library Lane Portage, MI 49002  
Phone: 269-329-4555

### **WORK BEES/PICNIC DATES**

TBA in July and August

### **2015 KGMS ANNUAL SHOW**

**(April 29<sup>th</sup> - May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016)**

Always the weekend before Mother's Day at the Kalamazoo  
County Expo Center 2900 Lake Street ( Kalamazoo Fairgrounds)  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048 - phone: 269-383-8778  
website: [www.kalcounty.com/parksshow\\_calendar\\_expo.php](http://www.kalcounty.com/parksshow_calendar_expo.php)

### **CLUB DUES**

Due by December 31<sup>st</sup>  
Family \$15.00/year  
Single \$13.50/year  
Senior/Couple 60 yrs \$13.50/yr  
Senior/Single 60 yrs \$10.00/year  
Student \$8.00/year

### **AFFILIATED WITH:**

AFMS: American Federation of  
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Website: [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)  
MWF: Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies  
Webpage: [www.amfed.org/mwf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf)

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