

Mineral Spotlight: Blue Lace Agate

Agate is the microcrystalline variety of quartz that occurs in banding of various colors. Agates are formed in cavities of other rocks ranging from acidic to neutral environments. They are formed by the precipitation and accumulation of silica-rich groundwater traveling through void spaces in rock.

Agate has the physical properties of quartz. Agates have banded structures that show successive layering being almost parallel to the sides of the cavity. Did you know that agates with bands of black, brown or red can be referred to as onyx? The color of the agate is largely determined by the impurities present. The crystal habit of agate is described as cryptocrystalline.

This feature was posted on Dice Museum social media by Museum Docent Gregory Ian Oduor on 6/14/2022.

