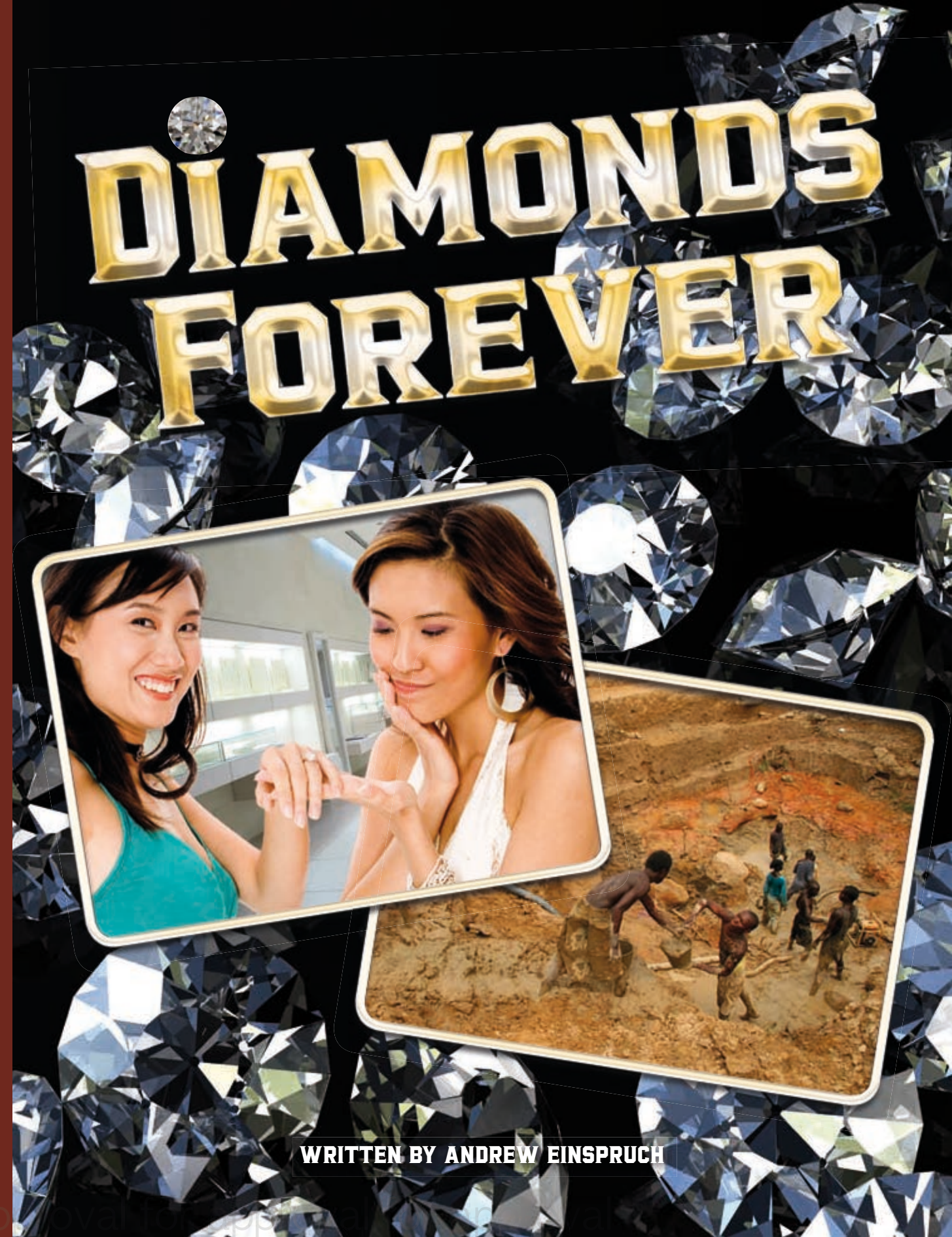


Springboard^{into} Comprehension 4

Main Idea	Religions Green All Around
Sequencing	Leading the Field in Green Camp Cavendish
Compare and Contrast	Crying Wolf Sun Tales
Fact and Opinion	This Ad's for You What Really Happened?
Cause and Effect	Water and Food Programs around the World Inventions and Discoveries That Changed the World
Bias and Prejudice	Diamonds Forever Graffiti

RA 9.5–10.5



WRITTEN BY ANDREW EINSRUCH



DIAMONDS FOREVER



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WRITTEN BY ANDREW EINSPRUCH

DIAMONDS AT A GLANCE

Diamonds are hard, transparent stones. They are made from a substance that occurs in all forms of life, called carbon. Diamonds are the hardest material found in nature. This means their surface resists scratching and wear.

Diamonds have two main uses. People use them in industry, and for jewellery. Diamonds are useful in industry because they are so hard. Only a diamond can scratch another diamond. This hardness lets them be used for many different purposes. Industry uses diamonds to cut, grind, and polish. It puts them into drills and saw blades.

However, most people do not think of diamonds as industrial tools. They think of them as sparkling, precious gems for rings, earrings, and necklaces. Jewellers cut them into geometric shapes. When polished, they become objects of beauty.

Diamonds are expensive. This is mainly because they are rare. There are diamond mines on every continent except Antarctica. However, most diamonds are found in just eight countries – Botswana, Russia, South Africa, Canada, Angola, Namibia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Australia.

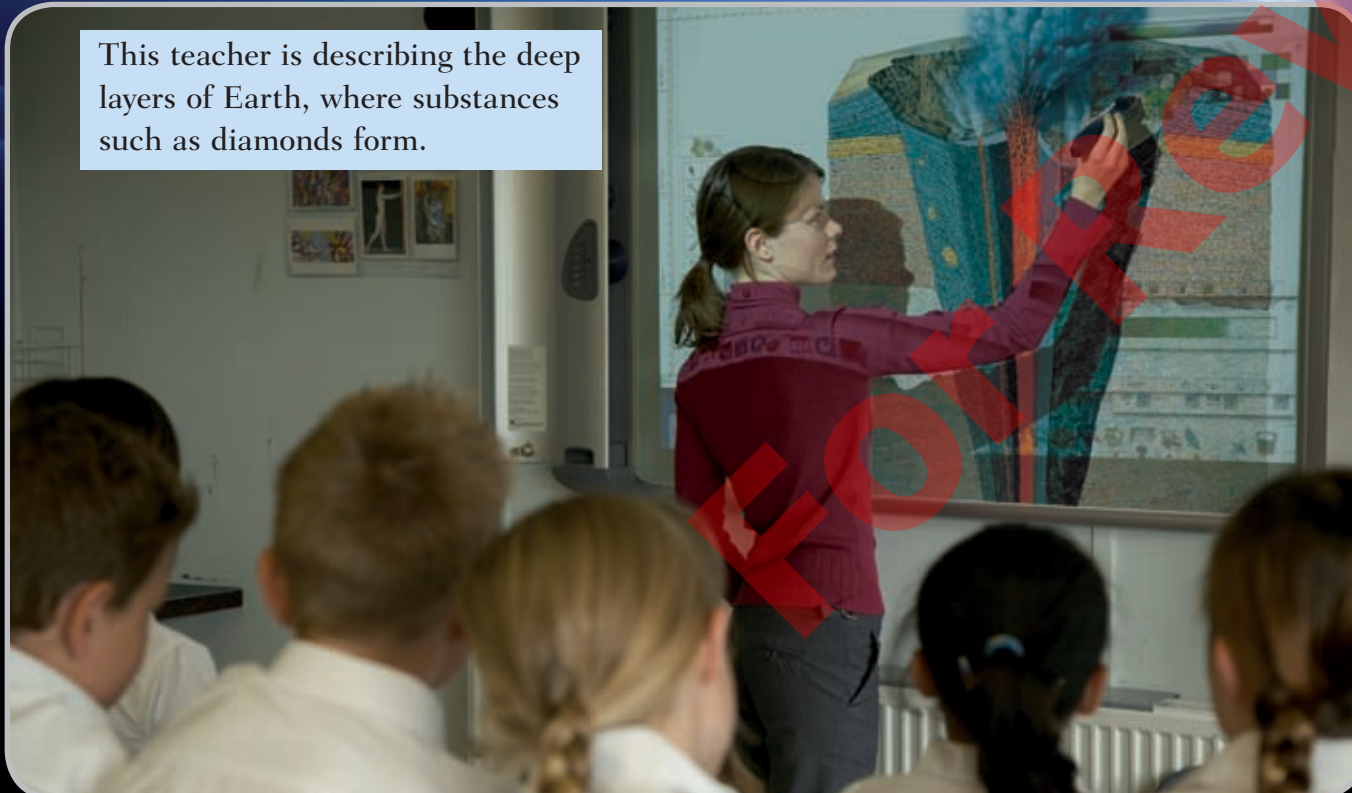
DIAMOND FACTS

SCIENCE LECTURE

The word *diamond* comes from the Greek word *adamas*, which means *indestructible*. However, the name is not quite right, because although they are the hardest substance on Earth, diamonds can break.

Diamonds form deep beneath Earth's hard outer layer, the **crust**. The layer beneath the crust is hot and molten, and is about 2,900 km thick. It is called the **mantle**. Diamonds form around 150 to 200 km below the surface, in the upper part of the mantle. There, carbon is at high temperature and pressure. This turns it into diamond. A solid substance formed underground like this is called a **mineral**.

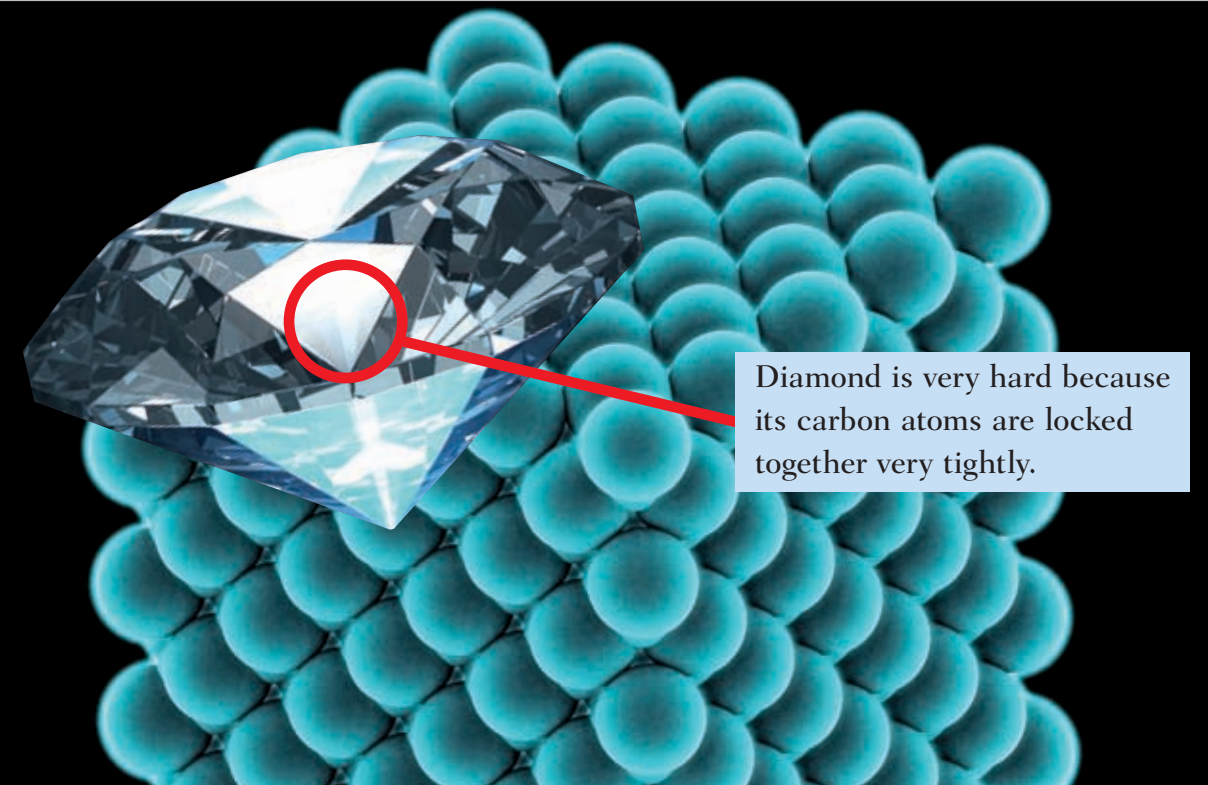
This teacher is describing the deep layers of Earth, where substances such as diamonds form.



All gemstones are minerals. Diamonds are the only gemstones that consist of a single substance, pure carbon. Diamond is the hardest form of pure carbon possible. There are other forms. The lead inside a pencil, or graphite, is actually made from the same carbon as a diamond. Graphite is a very soft form of pure carbon.

The oldest diamonds probably formed more than 1.5 billion years ago. Then, volcanoes brought the diamonds up towards the surface where people can find them.

The saying "Diamonds are forever" is not actually that far from the truth. Diamonds form from compressed carbon over millions of years inside Earth. They may last another few million years after people dig them up because they do not wear down. That is as close to forever as you can get.



Diamond is very hard because its carbon atoms are locked together very tightly.

MINERS STOP WORK



Newsreader:

Turning next to international news. A group of workers at the Ice Rock mine have stopped work to force the company to meet their demands. This is called a **strike**. The strike has entered its tenth day with no end in sight. Miners walked out on the job last week, protesting a range of issues. Sonia Simons is on the scene with Miners' Union spokesperson, Jim Fielderman.



Jim Fielderman:

A strike is the only answer to these unacceptable conditions. The company makes an incredible profit from the diamonds we mine. We don't want a lot in return. We want the chance to put in a fair day's work. We want a fair wage. We want our safety concerns to be addressed. And we want the housing the company provides to be liveable.



Sonia Simons:

I understand that the reason for the strike was a partial collapse that injured nine workers.



Fielderman:

For three years, Ice Rock has done nothing to address key safety complaints. Last week, we saw the results of that neglect. Thank goodness no one was killed. Our workers put their lives on the line every day to bring diamonds out of the ground. People enjoy them. The company makes money. Fair working conditions are not too much to ask.



Simons:

The company says it is willing to talk once workers go back to their jobs.



Fielderman:

They would say that, wouldn't they? This is simple. Meet our demands and we'll go back to hauling out diamonds.