The tradition of birthstones started in ancient times. A vest was made with 12 rare and brightly-colored minerals, called gemstones. Today, people associate the 12 gemstones with the 12 months of the year. This list was adopted in 1912 by the American National Association of Jewelers. However, some jewelers also use lists of traditional birthstones that go back to the 1400s!

January Garnet
February Amethyst
March Aquamarine
April Diamond
May Emerald
June Pearl or Moonstone
July Ruby
August Peridot
September Sapphire
October Opal or Tourmaline
November Yellow Topaz or Citrine
December Blue Topaz or Turquoise

Ask your family members and friends what month they were born. See if they know their birthstones. Write down their answers. Did they name the right gem? Find something in your neighborhood that’s the same color as their birthstones.