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## DID YOU KNOW?

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1. What is the oldest known jewelry ever found? One hundred thousand-year-old beads made from Nassarius shells.
2. In many cultures jewelry is supposed to ward off evil.
3. Through history live insect jewelry has been popular. The Egyptians may have been the first to do so, wearing scarab beetles into battle. But the Mexican Maquech Beetle and Giant Madagascar Hissing Cockroach have also been used in jewelry. In Britain the Victorians loved it, often sporting huge, vivid live beetles attached to their clothing by tiny, fine gold chains.
4. 24-carat gold is 99.9% pure, and most US and European jewelers think it's too soft for jewelry, but 24-carat gold is the norm across Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.
5. Platinum alloys range from 900 (90% pure) to 950 (95% pure).
6. Diamonds were first mined in India. The British crown jewels include the massive Cullinan Diamond, a chunk of the biggest ever gem-quality rough diamond ever found. It was discovered in 1905 and weighed 3,106.75 carats, which translates to 621.35g in weight.
7. Engagement rings date back to 1477, first popularized by the marriage of Maximilian the 1st to Mary of Burgundy.
8. Amber--an organic gem--is made of fossilized tree resin. Amber can be as old as 120 million years.
9. Amethyst is just a version of quartz, but its beautiful purple color makes it a popular semi-precious gem for jewelry.

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10. Emeralds were mined by the Egyptians as early as 3500 BC.
11. Jade is sometimes called 'the stone of heaven'.
12. A large, perfect, gem quality ruby is worth more than a similar sized diamond.
13. Turquoise is only found in only a few places--the biggest region being the south-western USA. Turquoise is associated with traditional Native American jewelry as well as modern jewelry.
14. What is an organic gemstone? Organic means substances like pearls, coral and amber, all made by living organisms rather than created through natural geological processes.
15. Throughout history, jewelry has often been about status. In ancient Rome, only some high- ranking people could wear rings.
16. In some African cultures, enormous earrings are a sign of masculinity, prowess, power and status.
17. Wedding rings for men are a 20<sup>th</sup>-century tradition, a practice launched by the jewelry industry to increase sales and double their market reach.
18. By the mid-1940s, 85% of North American weddings involved rings for both partners.
19. In traditional Islam, the wearing of gold by men is a social taboo and women can only wear ear jewelry.
20. Our Cro-Magnon ancestors wore simple necklaces and bracelets made from bone, teeth, berries and stones threaded on string or animal sinew.

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- 21. Ancient carved bracelets made from mammoth tusk have been found in Russia.
- 22. Copper jewelry started appearing about 7000 years ago.
- 23. Jewelry appeared in Ancient Egypt between 3000-5000 years ago. They loved gold best.
- 24. Mesopotamia tombs at the Royal Cemetery of Ur, dating back to 2900–2300 BC, were stuffed with gorgeous gold, silver and semi-precious stone-studded jewelry including amazing lapis lazuli and gold crowns, collars and pins.
- 25. The Indians have been making fine jewelry for more than 5000 years, an obsession kicked off by the Indus Valley Civilization.
- 26. People started making jewelry in China around the same time, but it didn't become widespread until Buddhism started to gain popularity about 2000 years ago.
- 27. The ancient Chinese loved silver much more than gold, using the metal to craft beautiful pieces studded with blue kingfisher feathers and various blue gemstones. But their main obsession was with jade, which they loved for its alleged human qualities: hardness, durability and beauty.
- 28. In the early 1980s, The Smiths popularized jewelry for men, reviving a hippy trend from the 1960s. In a then-sexist Britain, it was a bit of a shock to see men wearing ropes of beaded and jeweled necklaces.

*Credit: [www.OrlaJames.com](http://www.OrlaJames.com)*