

Cultural Analysis 文化解析

Gemstones (寶石) are valued in many cultures. However, historically there are cross-cultural variations in terms of the types of gemstones that are valued. This is evident through observing the gemstones used in royal **crowns** (皇冠) and **accessories** (飾品、配件) in England and China, for example. Western cultures have placed high value on diamonds, **emeralds** (綠寶石、祖母綠), **rubies** (紅寶石), and **sapphires** (藍寶石), and it is common for people to wear the gemstones that correspond to their own birthstone. The birthstone for people who were born in January is **garnet** (石榴石); February is **amethyst** (紫水晶); March is **aquamarine** (海藍寶石); April is diamond; May is emerald; June is pearl; July is Ruby; August is peridot; September is sapphire; October is **opal** (蛋白石); November is **topaz** (黃玉); and December is **turquoise** (綠松石). In Chinese culture, the gemstone that has been valued the most is **jade** (玉). Jade is used not only in accessories but also as **ornaments** (裝飾). Jade is very special in Chinese culture as it is known for its ability to resist evil spirit and to bring good fortune and good health.

