

## Geodes: One of Nature's Mysteries

Geodes are hard, subspherical nodules of quartz rock, ranging in size from less than 1 inch to more than 2 feet in diameter. Geodes are very resistant to weathering processes and concentrate in streams in south-central Indiana. Because they can be hollow and lined with beautiful quartz crystals, geodes are highly prized by rock hounds. Some geodes also contain calcite or other excellent crystals.



At least 20 different minerals, some rather rare, have been identified in these extraordinary rocks.

In south-central Indiana geodes can be found in the walls of road cuts and other exposures of rocks of the Harrodsburg Limestone and Ramp Creek Formation. For several miles on either side of this outcrop area, geodes are abundant along streams and scattered on the ground.

The origin of these interesting rocks is obscure, but some geologists believe that geodes were formerly fossils or gypsum nodules that were slowly replaced, molecule by molecule, by silica.

