

# GEODES: One of Nature's Mysteries

Geodes are subspherical nodules of quartz rock, ranging in size from less than 1 inch to more than 2 feet in diameter and are found in southern Indiana. Geodes typically consist of silica in concentric bands that make up the solid exterior. The interiors are sometimes hollow and can have calcite or other crystals within. At least 20 different minerals, some rather rare, have been identified in these extraordinary rocks.

Geodes are prized by rockhounds. In south-central Indiana, geodes can be found in the walls of road cuts and other exposures of a particular limestone formation (the Harrodsburg Limestone). For several miles on either side of this outcrop area, geodes are abundant along streams and scattered in the soils.

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 quartz.



*Analyzing the Past to Provide for the Future*



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