

# COMPREHENSION



©2018 Christina Swart

## South Africa

Read The Article And  
Answer The Questions.

### The Discovery of the Cullinan Diamond

The Cullinan Diamond Mine, also known as the Premier Diamond Mine, close to the small town of Cullinan near Pretoria, is the source of many of the world's largest and rare blue diamonds. This mine's most famous claim to fame is its discovery of the Cullinan Diamond (in its No 2 mine). The stone was weighed at the mine office, tipping the scales at 3,106 carats (621.35 grams). The stone was named after the mine's owner, Sir Thomas Cullinan.

The diamond was displayed at the Standard Bank in Johannesburg, prior to being sent to England, to the mine's London agent. It was conveyed to Buckingham Palace for inspection by King Edward VII and then placed on sale in London in April 1905 but remained unsold until the Transvaal Colony Government bought it for £150,000 as a gift for King Edward VII for his 66<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 09, 1907. The King commissioned the cutting into smaller stones to Asscher Brothers Diamond Company in Amsterdam.

Asscher cut the large stone into two stones and the rest into nine major stones. The two largest stones, Cullinan I (The Great Star of Africa) and Cullinan II (The Lesser Star of Africa) which now form part of the British Crown Jewels are exhibited in the Tower of London. Some of the 96 brilliant stones were used in the Crown Jewels with the larger stones and the others were made into magnificent pieces of jewellery owned by the British Royal Family.

The Cullinan diamond is the largest uncut diamond ever discovered. However, when it comes to polished diamonds, the Great Star of Africa (530.4 carat) lost its title as the biggest polished diamond to the Golden Jubilee Diamond (545.67 carat) in 1985.

Source: [www.diamondadvisor.com](http://www.diamondadvisor.com)

<https://diamondadvisor.com/the-cullinan-diamond/>

## Comprehension Questions:

1. Who did they name this diamond after?
2. Where was this diamond mined?
3. How much did this diamond weigh in its rough form?
4. The diamond was meant to be sold in London. It was never sold. So, what happened with it?
5. What did the King do with the diamond?
6. What is the name of the largest diamond?
7. What is the name of the city close to the Cullinan Mine?
8. How old was King VII when he received the diamond as a present?
9. Who owns these diamonds?
10. What is the name of the biggest polished diamond?

## Fill the Gaps:

ring x 3	bride x 2	fiancée	ring finger x 2	cut
couple x 2	band x 3	rough	diamond x 4	
married	engaged	polish	bridegroom x 2	

When a \_\_\_\_\_ gets \_\_\_\_\_, the man usually presents his \_\_\_\_\_ with a \_\_\_\_\_. When a \_\_\_\_\_ is mined, it is in its \_\_\_\_\_ form. Goldsmiths then \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ then gets set into a \_\_\_\_\_ of yellow or white gold and it becomes an engagement ring. When the \_\_\_\_\_ gets \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ usually gives his \_\_\_\_\_ a wedding \_\_\_\_\_ and she wears her engagement \_\_\_\_\_ and wedding \_\_\_\_\_ on her \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ gives her \_\_\_\_\_ a wedding \_\_\_\_\_ which he wears on his \_\_\_\_\_.

## Teacher's Key

### Comprehension Questions

1. Who did they name this diamond after?  
**Sir Thomas Cullinan.**
2. Where was this diamond mined?  
**The No 2 mine at Cullinan, RSA**
3. How much did this diamond weigh in its rough form?  
**621.35g**
4. The diamond was meant to be sold in London. It was never sold. So what happened with it?  
**It was presented to King Edward VII as a gift.**
5. What did the King do with the diamond?  
**He had it cut into smaller stones.**
6. What is the name of the largest diamond?  
**The Star of Africa**
7. Where is the largest diamond today?  
**It is mounted in the Crown Jewels of the British Monarch.**
8. How old was King VII when he received the diamond as a present?  
**66 years**
9. Who owns these diamonds?  
**The British Royal Family**
10. What is the name of the biggest polished diamond?  
**The Golden Jubilee Diamond**

## Teacher's Key



## Fill the Gaps:

ring x 3	bride x 2	fiancée	ring finger x 2	cut
couple x 2	band x 3	rough	diamond x 4	
married	engaged	polish	bridegroom x 2	

When a **couple** gets **married**, the man usually presents his **fiancée** with a **diamond ring**. When a **diamond** is mined, it is in its **rough** form. Goldsmiths then **cut** and **polish** the **diamond**. The **diamond** then gets set into a **ring** of yellow or white gold and it becomes an engagement ring. When the **couple** gets **married**, the **bridegroom** usually gives his **bride** a wedding **band** and she wears her engagement and wedding **band** on her **ring finger**. The **bride** gives her **bridegroom** a wedding **band** which he wears on his **ring finger**.