



Baltic Amber

Amber is the name given to fossil resin or tree sap and is appreciated for its beautiful colour as well as its antiquity. It is used for the manufacture of jewellery and ornamental objects. Amber is not mineralized although it is often falsely referred to as a 'gemstone'.

The presence of insects preserved in Amber was noticed by 'Pliny the Elder' (AD23-AD79) who correctly theorized that the material must have been liquid or semi liquid at some time to envelop them.



The oldest known Amber is approximately 345 million years old while the oldest with insect inclusions is closer to 140 to 150 million years old. Imagine! A tiny spider or ant perfectly preserved for 150 million years! Amber is a rich source of perfectly preserved fossils and provides much information about life in ancient forests. Most Baltic Amber is believed to be between 30 and 90 million years old. Inclusions in Amber can include beautifully preserved insects such as ants, wasps, mosquitos etc. and also spiders, leaves, flowers and wood fragments. Well preserved inclusions greatly affect the value of Amber samples.

Chemically Amber consists of several resinous compounds that can be soluble in alcohol, ether or chloroform. The process of 'molecular polymerization' is the result of heat and pressure over time which causes the eventual evaporation of turpines 2 which transforms the tree resin into Amber.

Amber is the sacred 'stone' of American Indians, and has been used in the art of manifesting desires into reality. In ancient times amber was considered to be literally worth it's weight in gold and special legions were used to carry amber to Rome from the Baltic area. Many still believe that Amber cleans the environment in which it rests and when worn, it brings purification of mind, body, and spirit. Amber activates unconditional love in mankind, stimulates the intellect, and opens the crown chakra. It is also a symbol of renewed marriage vows.

