**Geodes: Rocks That Reveal a Surprise Inside**

Geodes are rocks that can be broken open to reveal beautiful crystals.

A geode is a round or oval-shaped rock that is hollow inside, and lined with crystals. These geodes occur in sedimentary and volcanic rocks. Geodes start out as a hollow bubble inside a layer of rock. The bubble could be from air inside volcanic rock, or it could come from the hollow remains of animal burrows or tree roots. Over time, dissolved minerals seep into the hollow area and harden into an outer shell creating the geode. The minerals continue to build up on the inside walls of the shell. The most common dissolved mineral is quartz, but amethyst and other minerals are also found. These minerals build up over a period of thousands of years.

Geodes are found throughout the world, and many are concentrated in deserts or volcanic areas. In the United States they can be commonly found in California, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, and Iowa.