Minerals

Beryl

$Be_3 Al_2 Si_6 O_{18}$

Crystallography:

Hexagonal; *6/m2/m2/m*. Strong prismatic habit; frequently vertically striated and grooved. Forms usually present consist only of {10$\bar{1}$0} and {0001}.

Physical Properties:

Cleavage: {0001} imperfect and indistinct. Fracture conchoidal to uneven; brittle.
Hardness: 7.5-8.0.
Specific Gravity: 2.65-2.8.
Luster: Vitreous.
Color: Commonly bluish-green or light yellow; may be deep emerald green, gold-yellow, pink, white, or colorless. Transparent to translucent.
Streak: White.

Composition/Features:

A beryllium aluminum silicate usually recognized by its hexagonal crystal form and color. Color serves as the basis for several varietal names of gem beryl, including aquamarine (blue-green), emerald (deep green), and morganite (rose pink). Beryl is distinguished from apatite by greater harness and from quartz by higher specific gravity. Insoluble in acids.

Occurrence/Use:

In non-gem varieties, beryl is rather common and found in granitic rocks or pegmatites. The principle source of beryllium.