

Name _____

Date _____

Find the Main Idea

Find the main idea in the paragraph below. Write the main idea in your own words in the space provided. Write a concluding sentence for this paragraph.



Most people can tell you which gem is considered their birthstone, but most people don't know where the tradition was started. It is believed to have started in ancient times and based on the Breastplate of Aaron, a ceremonial religious robe set with twelve gemstones. These twelve stones were said to represent the twelve tribes of Israel. They are also said to correspond with the twelve months of the year as well as the twelve signs of the zodiac. This is why people started relating a certain stone with a particular month. The birthstone designated for each month is not the same in every country, since nobody is absolutely certain which stones were set in the garment. In addition, stones were named differently in ancient times than they are today. But in the United States, there is generally one list that is thought to be the "official" birthstone list, although additional stones for some months are becoming acceptable in order to incorporate the more modern stone choices of people today. In the original list, the birthstones were listed as follows: January, garnet; February, amethyst; March, aquamarine; April, diamond; May, emerald; June, alexandrite; July, ruby; August, peridot; September, sapphire; October, opal; November, citrine; and December, blue topaz.

Main Idea:

Concluding sentence:



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Main Idea: **Answers will vary.**

The stones on the Breastplate of Aaron gave rise to the tradition of birthstones.

Concluding sentence: **Answers will vary.**

Do you know which stone represents the month of your birth?

