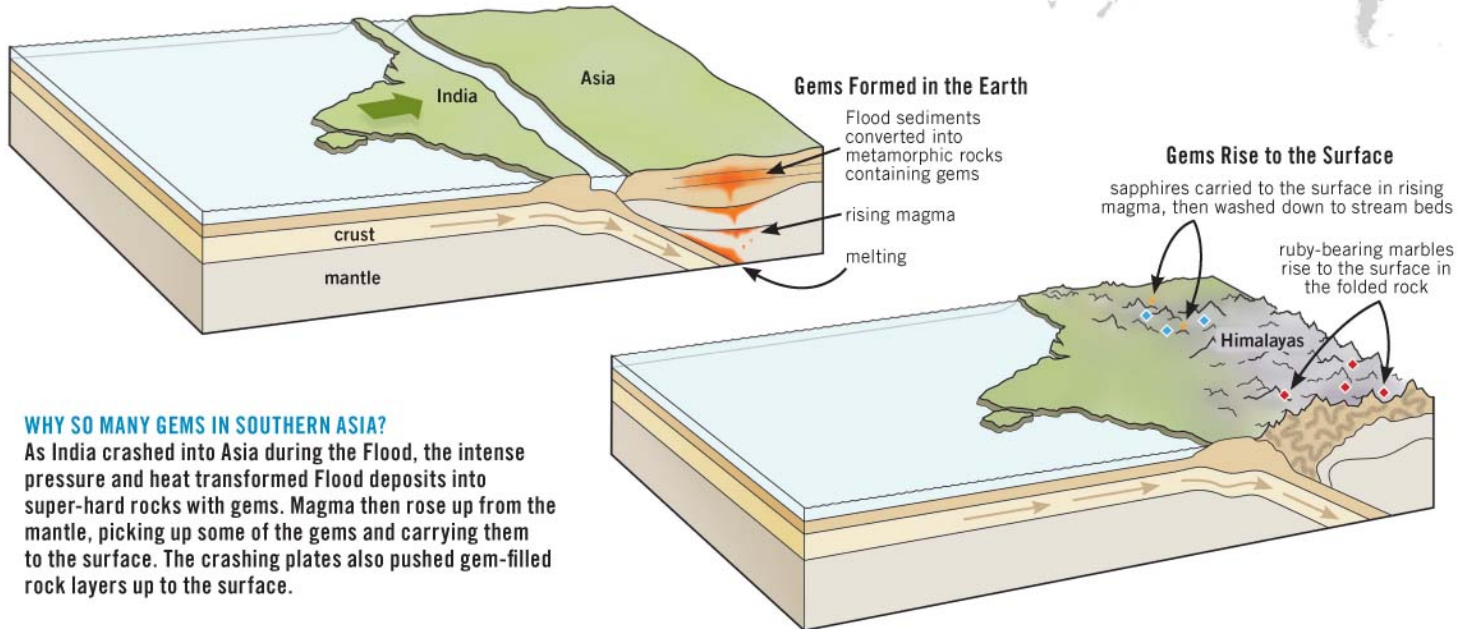


COUNTRIES PRODUCING RUBIES (in order of importance & per carat value):

- (1) Myanmar;
- (2) Vietnam;
- (3) Sri Lanka;
- (4) Kenya, Tanzania;
- (5) Afghanistan;
- (6) Thailand, Cambodia;
- and (7) India.

COUNTRIES PRODUCING BLUE SAPPHIRES (in order of quality ranking):

- (1) India (Kashmir);
- (2) Myanmar;
- (3) Sri Lanka;
- (4) Australia, Cambodia, China, Nigeria, Thailand, USA.



WHY SO MANY GEMS IN SOUTHERN ASIA?

As India crashed into Asia during the Flood, the intense pressure and heat transformed Flood deposits into super-hard rocks with gems. Magma then rose up from the mantle, picking up some of the gems and carrying them to the surface. The crashing plates also pushed gem-filled rock layers up to the surface.