

"jasper, n.1". *OED Online*. D-cember 2014. Oxford University Press. <http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/100838?isAdvanced=false&result=1&rskey=XmQu7x&> (accessed M-rch 02, 2015).

jasper, *n.*¹

Pronunciation: /'dʒɑːspə(r)/ /-æ-/

Forms: Also ME *iaspre*, ME *iaspere*, 15 *iaspar*.

Etymology: < Old French *jaspre* (15th cent. in Littré) variant of *jaspe* = Spanish *jaspe*, Portuguese *jaspe*, Provençal *jaspi*, Italian *iaspide*, < Latin *iaspis*, *iaspid-em*, < Greek *ἴασπις*, *ἴασπιδ-* jasper, a word of oriental origin: compare Hebrew *yash-beh* (Exod. xxviii. 20), Assyrian *asphū*; Persian *yashm*, and *yashp* (Persian and Arabic *yashb*, and *yashf*) jasper.

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n medieval Latin *diasprus*, *diasprum*, was used both for jasper and diaper; Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese *diaspro* have also the sense 'jasper'.

1. A kind of precious stone.

a. As rendering of Greek *ἴασπις* or Latin *iaspis*, name among the ancients for any bright-coloured chalcedony except carnelian, the most esteemed being of a green colour.

b. In modern use, an opaque cryptocrystalline variety of quartz, of various colours, usually red, yellow, or brown, due mostly to the admixture of iron oxide. *agate jasper*, 'an agate consisting of jasper with veinings and cloudings of chalcedony' (1868 Dana *Min.* (ed. 5) 195). *banded, striped, or ribbon jasper*, a variety having the colours in broad stripes. *Egyptian jasper*, a variety much used in ancient art, occurring in nodules with zones of brown, yellow, or red. *porcelain jasper* (see *PORCELAIN n.* and *adj.* Compounds 2).

c1330 *Owayn* 37 **Jaspers topas and cristal Margarites and coral.**

c1374 CHAUCER *Troilus & Criseyde* II. 1180 (1229) Doun she sette here by hym on a ston Of Iaspre vp-on a quysshon gold y-bete.

c1400 (?c1380) *Pearl* l. 998 Iasper hyȝt þe fyrst gemme.

c1400 *Mandeville's Trav.* (Roxb.) xi. 43 Þare was..a boist of grene iasper with foure figures and viii. names of oure Lord þerin.

1526 *Bible (Tyndale)* Rev. xxi. 18 The byldinge of the wall of hit was of iaspar.

1555 R. EDEN tr. Peter Martyr of Angleria *Decades of Newe Worlde* III. v. f. 115, He founde many of the precious stones cauled Smaragdes, calcedones, and Iaspers.

1688 R. HOLME *Acad. Armory* II. 39/2 The Jasper is somewhat green, yet specked with bloody spots.

1794 R. J. SULIVAN *View of Nature* I. 446.

1805 R. JAMESON *Treat. External Characters Minerals* 60 Glistening [minerals]..Examples, grey copper ore, porcelain jasper.

1855 H. W. LONGFELLOW *Hiawatha* IV. 51 Oaken arrows, Tipped with jasper.

1861 C. W. KING *Antique Gems* (1866) 18 The true antique Jasper, vermilion coloured, is only to be met with in antique examples.

1868 J. D. DANA *Syst. Mineral.* (ed. 5) 195 **Porcelain jasper** is nothing but baked clay, and differs from true jasper in being B.B. fusible on the edges.

2. Short for *jasper-ware n.* at Compounds 3 (see *Compounds 2*).

1825 'J. NICHOLSON' *Operative Mechanic* 476 In Messrs. Riley's shining black biscuit porcelain, the ware is of a jet black jasper, or porcelain body.

1832 G. R. PORTER *Treat. Manuf. Porc. & Glass* 17 *Jasper*,..a white porcelain biscuit of exquisite delicacy and beauty [among Wedgwood's inventions].

1894 S. SMILES *J. Wedgwood* xiv. 153 The material was called jasper from its resemblance to that stone. The jasper ware was made of white porcelain bisque.