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Jade is a symbol of BC. In nature it looks like any other dark rock. Hit nephrite (NEF-rite) jade with a carpenter's hammer. The jade won't break. That's because it is the world's toughest stone.

With the right tools, artists use jade to make beautiful carvings and jewelry.

In 2002 in the north of BC, people found the most valuable piece of jade ever. It is too big to fit in a pick-up truck. But when it is polished, the jade is pure enough to be a necklace—for a giant!

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Photo: Kirk Makepeace, Jade West

Polar Pride, the biggest piece of jade in the world, had to be cut apart to remove it from the mine.