



## PLATINUM EDUCATION

### Platinum's History

Over 2 billion years ago meteorites containing platinum crashed into the earth burying its treasure beneath the surface. However, it wasn't until the late 1500s that the metal was discovered by Prospectors naming it *platina*, meaning "little silver." Platinum has a very high melting point which made it more difficult to work with until the end of the 19th century when the process to make platinum more malleable was created. This method of producing workable pure platinum positioned the material as the preferred metal for high jewelry (then and now), as it enabled much lighter settings for jewels without sacrificing durability compared with gold or silver. Platinum is a naturally white metal that will not tarnish and develops a rich patina over time. In addition to platinum's unique qualities making it conducive to creating beautiful long-lasting jewelry, this metal's physical and chemical properties also make it invaluable to the healthcare, automotive and technology industries.