

Arom Side Quest – We’re Going Mining!

There are many precious gemstones that can be found deep in the mountains near the Arom forest. These gems are valuable, not only to the Rubites, but to all kinds of people and for many different reasons. Gems not only look dazzling, but they are also useful because of their hardness and other chemical properties.

Each day, you will go digging for these gems by completing what are called “Mad Minutes.” The first thing we will do together in class is a Mad Minute exercise. This will help you to practice your basic arithmetic skills as well as to focus you for the tasks of the day.

Mad Minutes work like this: I will place simple arithmetic problems on the board and then you will have exactly ONE MINUTE in order to finish as many as you can correctly. Once the minute is up, you will need to immediately put down your writing utensil and then trade with a neighbor. We will quickly answer them and you will mark your neighbor’s Mad Minute. I will then come around and collect your scores as you work on the stories.

There are four basic operations (+, -, x, ÷) and we will be practicing all of them. In order to complete this quest, you must acquire at least:

100 Sapphires (*Addition*)
75 Rubies (*Subtraction*)
100 Emeralds (*Multiplication*)
75 Diamonds (*Division*)

Finishing this quest will allow 3 more of your friends and family to stay in the Glasslands and you will obtain the Reputation, “We’re Going Mining!”

In addition, once you have acquired more than the necessary number of gems, you may trade some of them in for Stars. Below is the current exchange rate for gems to Stars:

50 Sapphires = 50 Stars
25 Rubies = 50 Stars
50 Emeralds = 75 Stars
25 Diamonds = 75 Stars

Remember that the first 100 Sapphires, 75 Rubies, 100 Emeralds, and 75 Diamonds cannot be traded for Stars. Only the extras that you acquire by working extra hard will be exchangeable.