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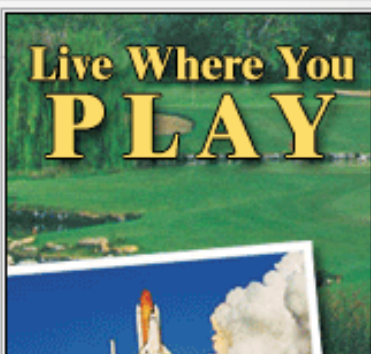
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Wednesday, March 07, 2007

Geologists discover origin of black diamonds

Black, or **carbonado**, diamonds, came from outer space, geologists have discovered. Scientists claim an extraterrestrial origin for the unique black diamonds, also called **carbonado** diamonds. Infrared synchrotron radiation at Brookhaven National Laboratory was used to discover the diamonds' source. The term **carbonado** was coined by the Portuguese in Brazil in the mid-18th century. It's derived from its visual similarity to porous charcoal. Black diamonds are found only in Brazil and the **Central African Republic**. The new data support earlier research showing that **carbonado** diamonds formed in stellar supernovae explosions. Black diamonds were once the size of asteroids, a kilometer or more in diameter when they first landed on Earth.

For more information, please visit www.nsf.gov

X-ray evidence supports possible new class of supernova

periodically, "once every 26 million years," Spedic said. "Not

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