

# **The 4Cs of Diamonds**

## **Lesson Plan and Instructor Materials**

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## Basic Information

**Name of Lesson:** The 4Cs of Diamonds

**Description:** This short lesson will give an overview of the “4Cs” of diamonds - Cut, Color, Clarity, and Carat - while introducing facts about diamonds, their uses, chemistry, and history.

**Target Audience:** Adults

**Instructional Level:** Beginner to Intermediate

**Time Required:** One 30-45 minute session

**Developed by:** Britne Jenke

## Objectives

**Lesson Goal:** Learn basic concepts about diamonds, or refresh existing knowledge.

At the end of the lesson, the participant will be able to explain the 4Cs of diamonds and how they affect value and rarity, and also understand the history and importance of diamonds

**Competencies:** Understand society and culture, earth sciences, diagrams and charts, weights and measurements

## Resources

Note cards/slips of paper with questions and answers (warm-up activity)

Posterboard and shape graphics (lesson activity)

Participant handouts (worksheets)

Pens/pencils (for participant worksheets)

Whiteboard, chalkboard, or flip pad for classroom note-taking (optional)

## Lesson Plan Steps

### Warm-Up

**Duration:** 5-10 minutes

**Purpose:** Introduce participants to each other and the instructor, get participants engaged and interested in the lesson.

**Activity:** Instructor will hand out a selection of questions and answers on small note cards/slips of paper as participants enter the room (or pass around if participants are already seated). Questions and their matching answers will relate to diamond trivia: history, popular culture, and other fun facts.

Participants will be given a few minutes to review their trivia and find the person in the room with the other half of their question/answer combination. Once the partner is found, they will be seated together and introduce themselves (name, department, years with the company). Once all partners are matched, each pair will stand, introduce themselves to the class, and share their diamond trivia.

### Introduction

**Duration:** 5 minutes

**Purpose:** Introduce instructor to participants and establish credentials, provide an overview of what will be learned in the class.

**Notes:** Now that we've learned some fun facts about diamonds, I'm going to share with you what makes diamonds rare, valuable, and beautiful.

My name is Britne Jenke, and I am a DCA Certified Diamontologist.

Today's lesson will cover the "4Cs" of diamonds. Some of you may already be familiar with this information; in that case it will be a nice refresher. For some of you, this may be new information, which will help you with your career in jewelry retail by better understanding the products that we sell in our retail stores.

**Activity:** In your handout packet, you have a worksheet with a lot of blank spaces. I encourage you to fill in the blanks as we go through the lesson. If you already know some of the answers, great! Write them down, and check your learning when we cover that topic.

## Lesson

**Duration:** 15-20 minutes

### *Part 1: The First C - Cut*

- Cut Shape vs. Cut Quality
- Importance of cut quality
- Proportion, symmetry, polish
- Optical performance
- Ideal cut/branded cuts
- Activity - matching cut shapes with names

### *Part 2: The Second C - Color*

- Naturally occurring colors (trivia tie-in)
- Fancy colors
- Color grading scale
- Color treatments

### *Part 3: The Third C - Clarity*

- Types of inclusions
- "Birthmarks"/"Character Traits"
- Clarity grading scale

### *Part 4: The Fourth C - Carat*

- Carats and points
- Weight - not size!
- Rarity of size
- Total weight

### Practice

**Duration:** 5 minutes

**Purpose:** Check learning by basic recall, allow participants to ask additional questions.

**Activity:** Use the whiteboard/flip pad to recap key concepts and takeaways. Instructor will call on people at random or go around the room to jot down points. (If no whiteboard/pad is available, activity can be done verbally.)

**Notes:** I'd like to take a few minutes and recap what we've learned today - I know I've covered a lot of information in a short time! As a group, let's go around the room and share one new fact you learned today. If you already knew everything I presented today, share with us the one fact you find the most interesting, or the one piece of knowledge you will use most in your current job. Also, after we're finished giving everyone a chance to share, I'd like to give you some time to ask me any additional questions you may have about diamonds that I may not have covered.

### Evaluation

**Duration:** 5 minutes

**Purpose:** Evaluate effectiveness of the lesson (Level 1 Evaluation).

**Activity:** Have participants fill out the "smile sheet" contained in their participant handout.

### Application

**Duration:** Ongoing/after lesson completion

**Purpose:** Reinforce knowledge gained in lesson

**Activity:** Have participants share their new knowledge in conversation (colleague, family member, friend) by the end of the week.

**Notes:** I have one more activity for you to complete after you leave here today. I challenge each of you to use your new knowledge from this lesson in a conversation by the end of the week. If it comes up in a work-related conversation, add your input by teaching your colleagues something they may not have known about diamonds. Or in a conversation with a friend or family member, tell them about the fun class you went to at work today and teach them your favorite trivia fact. This will help you remember what you learned here today for much longer, if you can share it with others and use it on a daily basis.