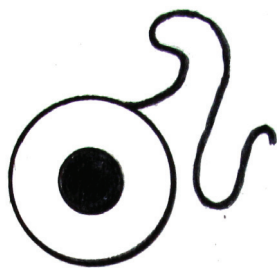


Cu

Copper is number 29 on the periodic table of elements and its symbol is Cu. It is a pinkish color and rusts into a green color. It was one of the first metals used by human beings to make tools and weapons, in part because it is common and easy to mine. Copper is also very malleable and electrically conductive.



Copper is very ductile, meaning it can be easily stretched into wire.



Copper has the second best electrical conductivity of all metals after silver. It is the most commonly used metal for carrying electricity through houses because it is easy to get and easily stretches into wire.



Small amounts of copper are essential to all living things. It works with iron to help make blood cells. Grains and breads contain plenty of copper.



Copper is one of the few metals that can be found naturally on Earth, not in a compound with other elements. This made it easy for early civilizations to use it.

Questions

1. What property of copper makes it easy to stretch into wires?
2. What are some food sources where copper is found?
3. What about copper made it easy for early civilizations to use it?
4. Why is copper the most common metal used for electrical wiring?