

Ag

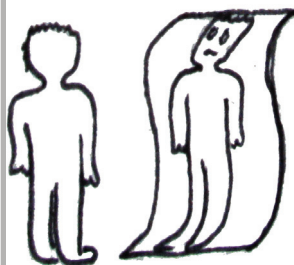
Silver is number 47 on the periodic table of elements and its symbol is Ag. It is a rare element, and difficult to mine. For this reason, it is known as a precious metal. For centuries silver has been used for jewelry, decoration and money, but it is also important for its reflective and conductive qualities.



Silver is a very soft metal and can be easily shaped and stretched. It is commonly used for cutlery because of this, though since the element is rare other metals are more often used.



Silver is the most conductive metal there is. It is sometimes used for electrical wires, but since it is rare, other elements are used more often.



Silver is a very reflective metal and, if highly polished, will give a nearly perfect reflection. For this reason it is often used in mirrors.



Silver is known to stop the growth of bacteria and fungi. Sometimes small amounts of it are put into clothing to prevent mold.

Questions

1. Silver is sometimes called what type of metal?
2. Why is silver used in mirrors?
3. Why is it easy to make cutlery out of silver?
4. Why are small amounts of silver often put into clothing?