

PYRITE (FOOL'S GOLD)



Name	Pyrite (Iron Pyrite)
Chemical Formula	FeS ₂ (Iron Sulfide)
Color	Pale brass-yellow, tarnishes darker and iridescent
Moh's Scale	6 - 6.5 hardness
Luster	Metallic

This mineral's metallic luster and pale to-normal, brass-yellow hue have earned it the nickname fool's gold because of its resemblance to gold. Pyrite is usually found in quartz veins, sedimentary rock, and metamorphic rock, as well as in coal beds, and as a replacement mineral in fossils. Pyrite can be found on several continents, including North America, South America, Australia, Asia, and Europe.



Pyrite was used in the 1700s and the 1800s as an ingredient to ignite gunpowder in firearms. Pyrite is often heated to create sulfuric acid, an ingredient used in making lead-acid car batteries and chemical fertilizers for growing plants. During the early years of the 20th century, pyrite was used as a mineral detector in radio receivers.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW...?

1. What is the nickname given to pyrite? _____
2. What is the Chemical Formula of pyrite? _____
3. Name two places in the world you can find pyrite? _____

4. Is pyrite a rock or a mineral? _____
5. Pyrite is a metamorphic rock. True or False? _____

Answer all the questions and return it to the store. If all of your answers are correct, then you may receive a free gift from The Quartz Source!

The Quartz Source Rock and Mineral Store
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