

# Elements, Minerals, and Rocks

## Elements and Minerals

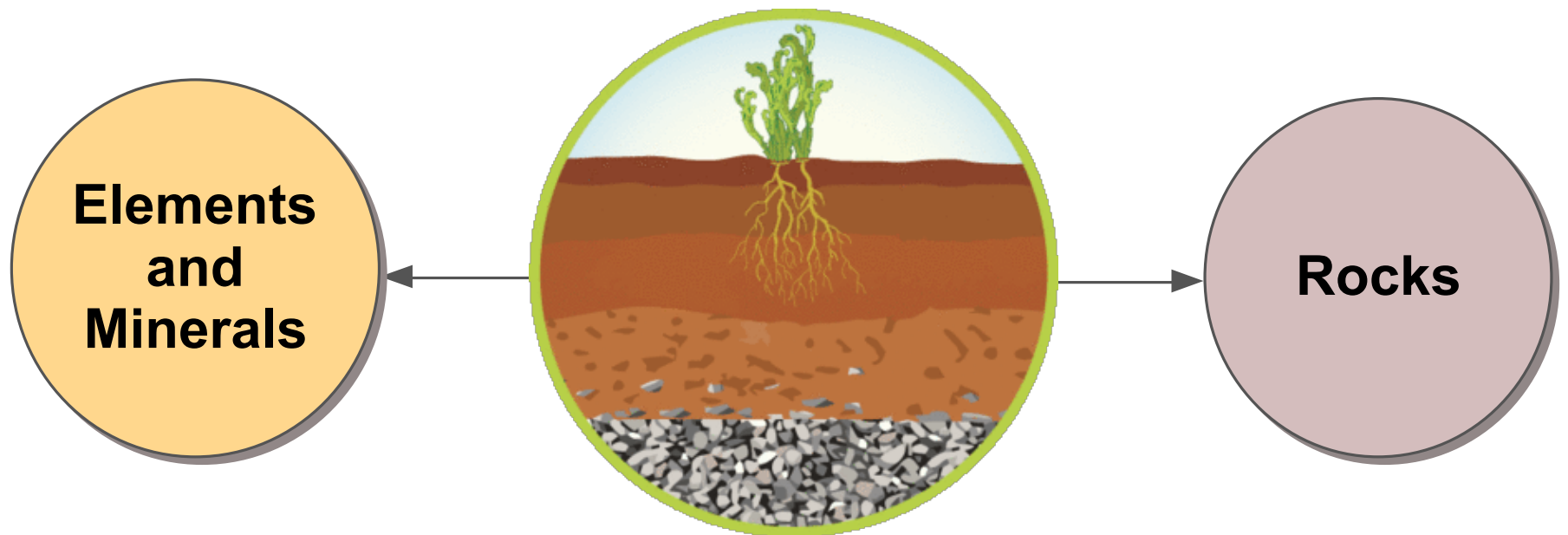


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# **Elements, Minerals, and Rocks**

Earth is made of elements, minerals, and rocks. There are many words used to describe different elements and minerals. There are also many words to describe different kinds of rocks and their different sizes.

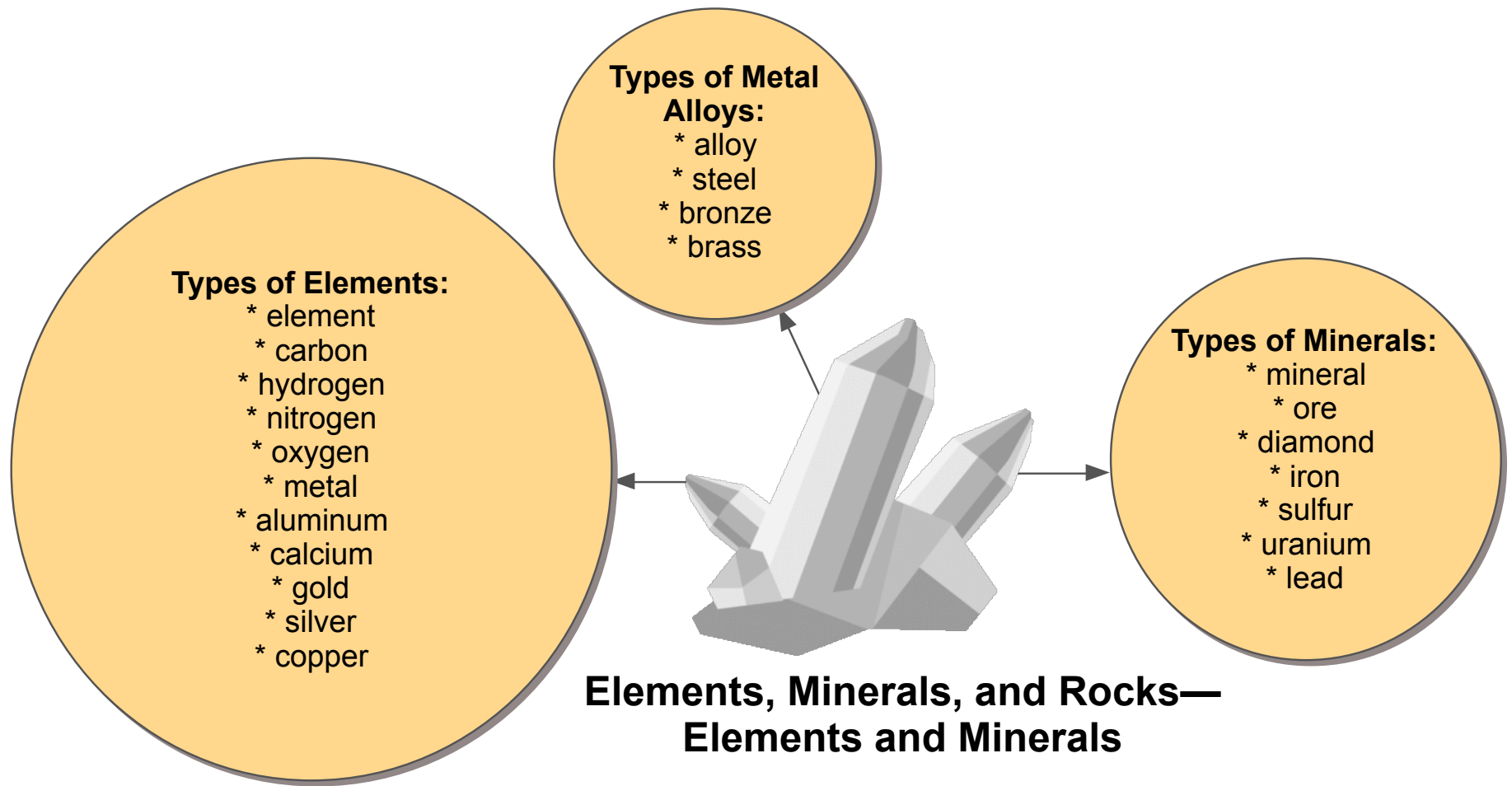


**Elements, Minerals, and Rocks**

# **Elements and Minerals**

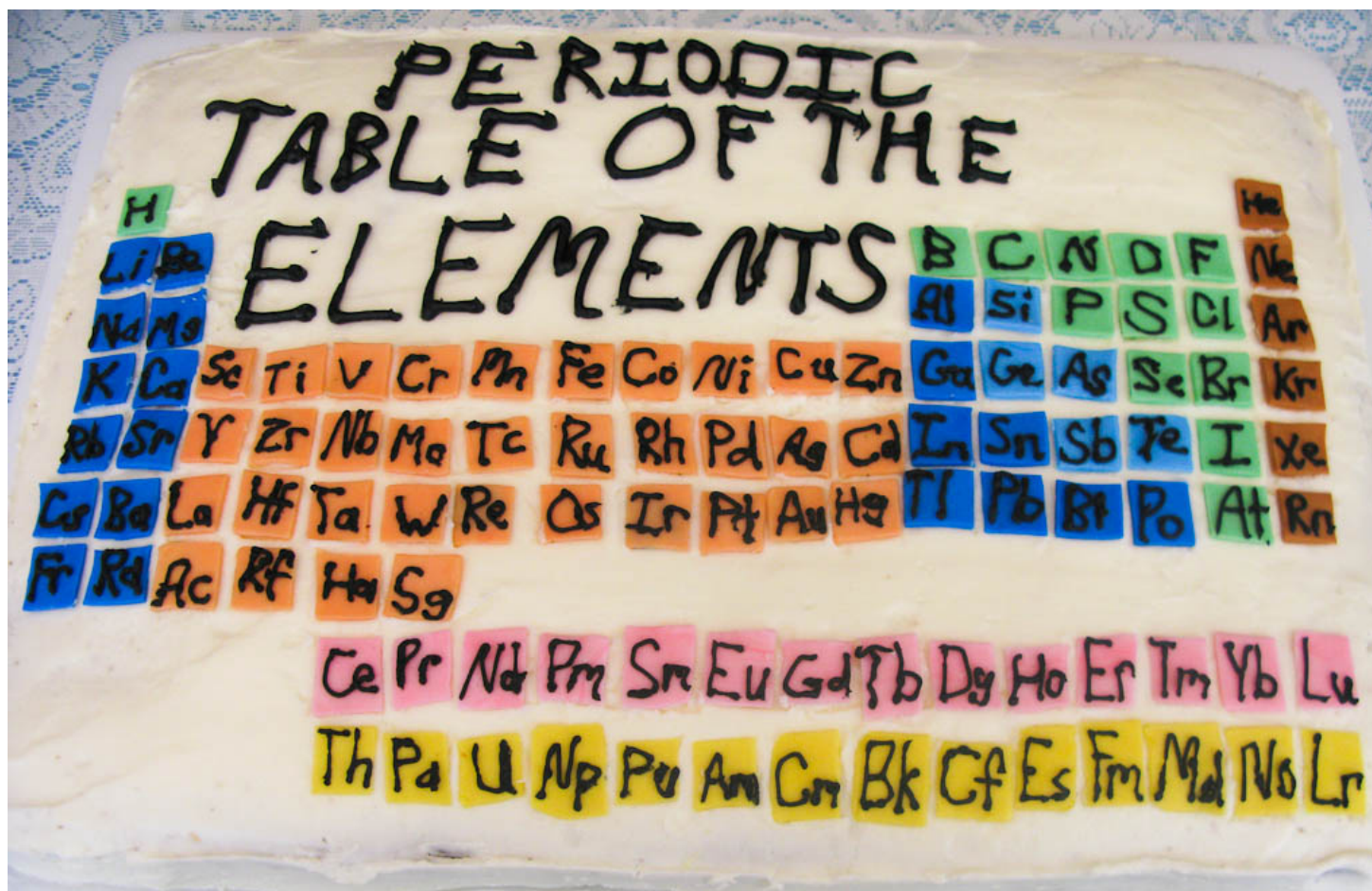
Scientists study elements and minerals everyday. They look at what types of elements and minerals exist, where they are found on Earth, and how we use them in everyday life.





# element

(el·e·ment)

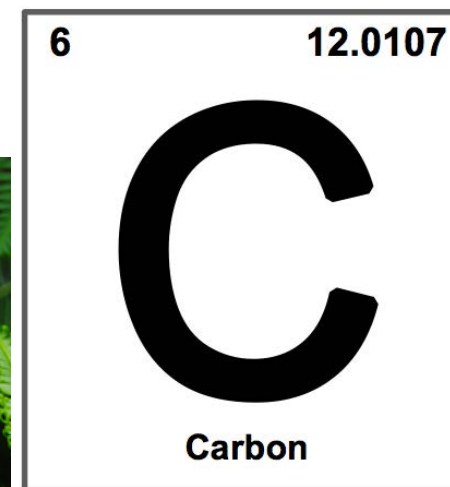


*Elements* are the basic substances that make up life and physical objects. Scientists organize elements using the Periodic Table of Elements.

# carbon

## (car·bon)

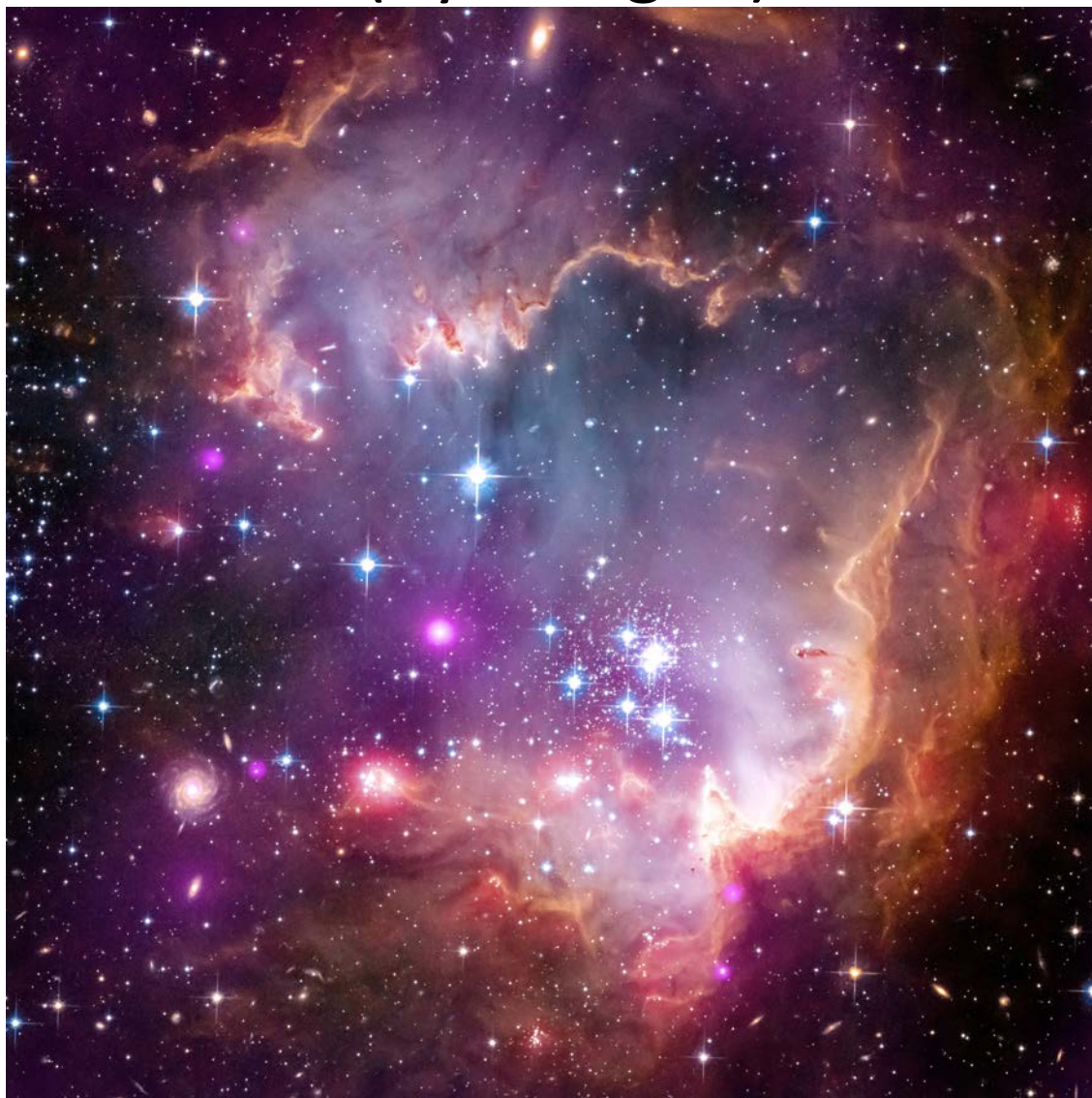
*Carbon* is an element that is in all living plants and animals.



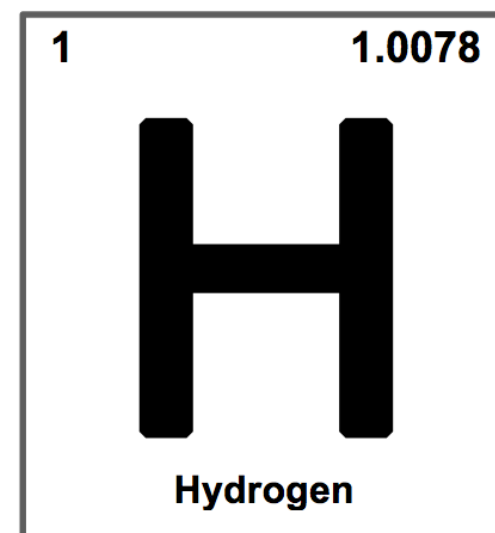


# hydrogen

(hy·dro·gen)

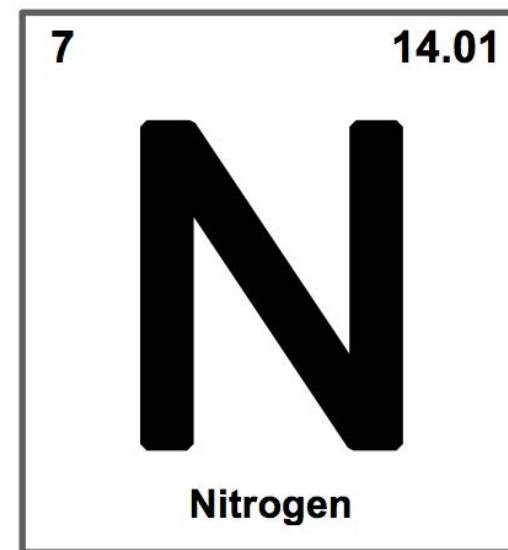


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*Hydrogen* is an element that has no color or smell and that is the simplest, lightest, and most common element. One place it can be found is between stars in space.

Image: Hydrogen chemical symbol. August 2015. Created by Jessie Thorsen. Used with permission.



# nitrogen

(ni·tro·gen)

*Nitrogen* is a element that has no color or smell. At room temperature it is a gas.

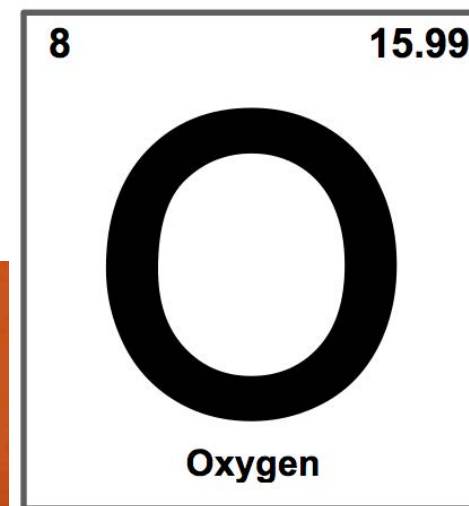
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Image: Nitrogen chemical symbol. August 2015. Created by Jessie Thorsen. Used with permission.



# oxygen

(ox·y·gen)



*Oxygen* is an element that is found in the air and has no color, taste, or smell.



# metal

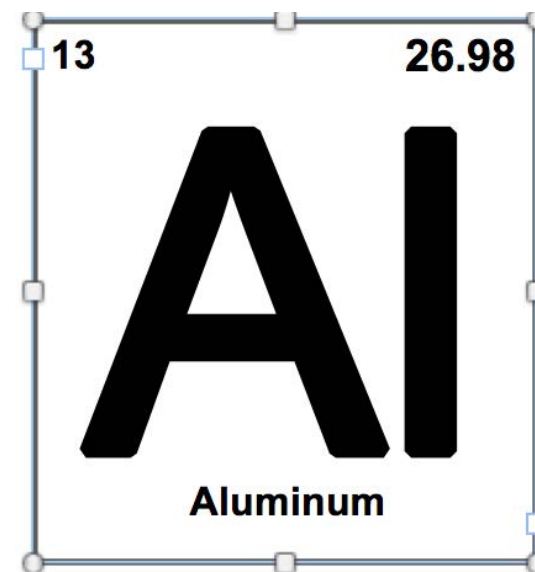
(met·al)



Some elements are *metals*.

# aluminum

(alu·mi·num)



*Aluminum* is an element that is a silver metal. It is strong and light and is used for making many products.



# calcium

(cal·ci·um)



20	40.08
<b>Ca</b>	
Calcium	

*Calcium* is a element that is found in most plants and animals. It is especially important in people so they can have strong healthy bones

# gold

(gold)



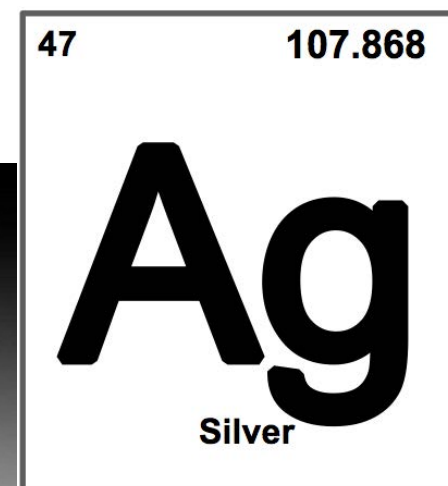
79	196.6654
<b>Au</b>	
Gold	

*Gold* is an element that is a soft yellow metal. It is very valuable and is used to make jewelry.



# silver

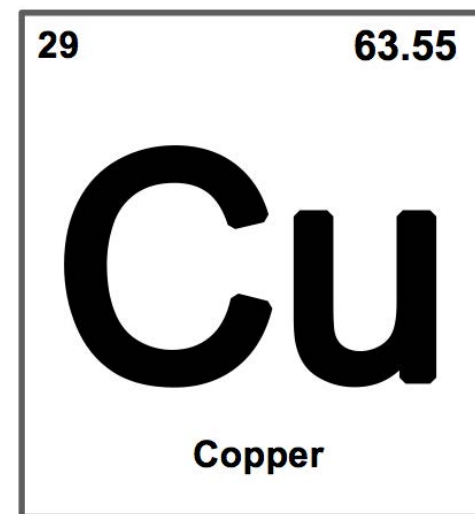
(sil·ver)



*Silver* is an element that is a soft grayish-white metal that is very valuable and is used to make jewelry, coins, knives, and forks.

# copper

(cop·per)



*Copper* is a common metal element that is good at conducting heat.



# alloy (al·loy)

An *alloy* is a metal made by melting and mixing two or more metals or a metal and another material together. Alloys are use to build many things.



# steel (steel)

*Steel* is a strong, hard metal alloy made of iron and carbon.





# bronze (bronze)

*Bronze* is a metal alloy that is made by combining copper and tin.



# brass (brass)

*Brass* is a yellow metal alloy that is made by combining copper and zinc.



# mineral (min·er·al)

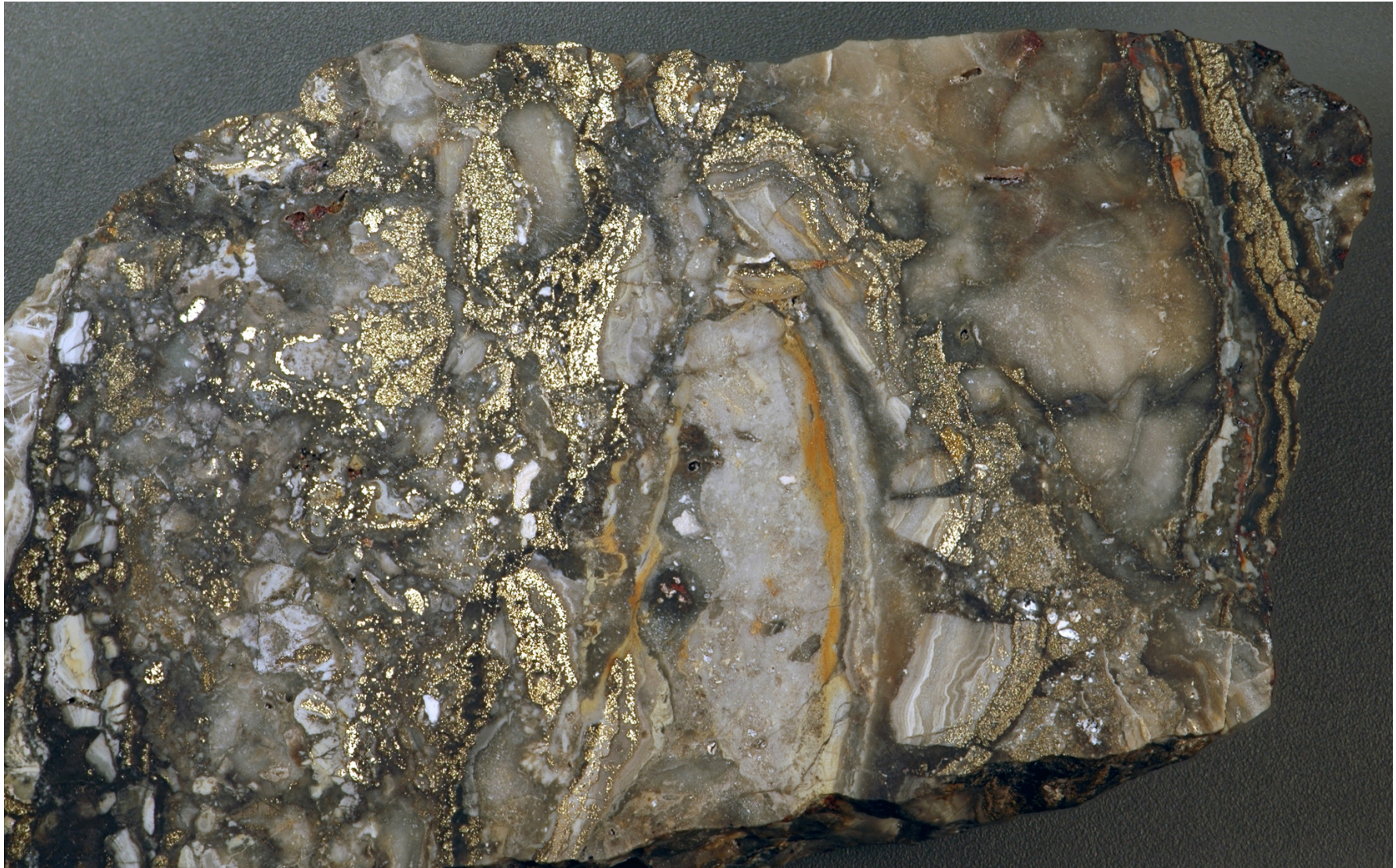
A *mineral* is a naturally occurring substance made of one or more elements. Most minerals are crystals, like diamonds.





# ore (ore)

Something that is considered an *ore* is a naturally occurring mineral that is valuable.





# diamond

(di·a·mond)



# iron (iron)

*Iron* is an element that is a type of mineral.

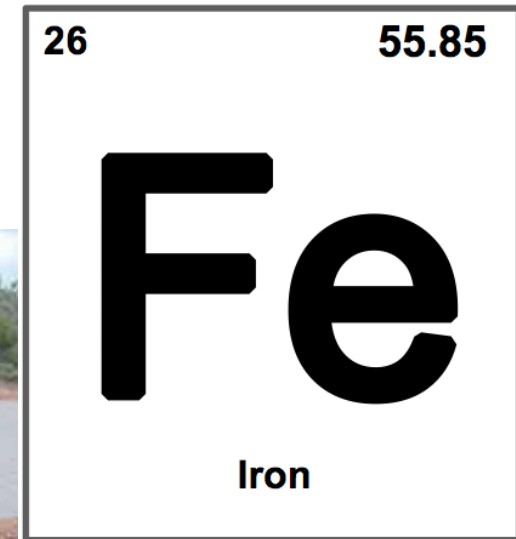


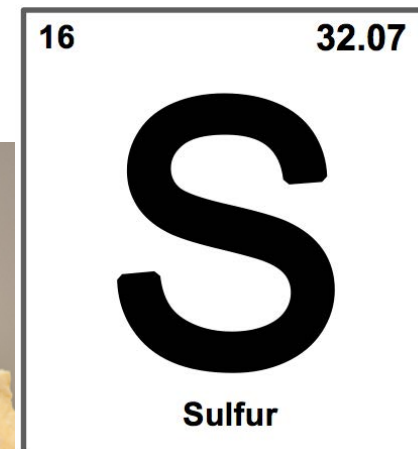
Photo: Iron in rocks. Uploaded by Joanjoc~commonswiki at Wikimedia in 2005. Released into the public domain.

Image: Iron chemical symbol. August 2015. Created by Jessie Thorsen. Used with permission.

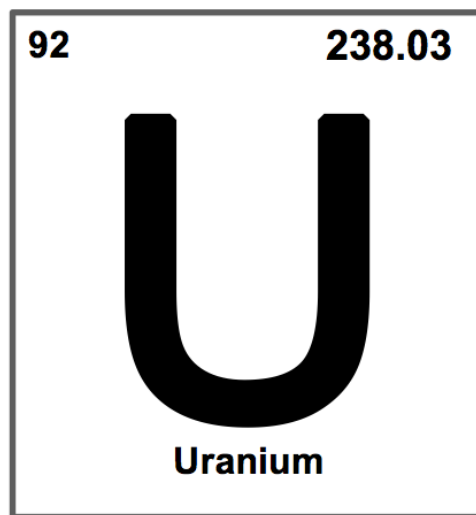


# sulfur

(sul·fur)



*Sulfur* is a yellow chemical element that has a strong, unpleasant odor when it is burned and that is used in making paper, gunpowder, and in medicine. It is also considered a mineral.



# uranium

(ura·ni·um)



*Uranium* is a radioactive element that is used to make nuclear energy and nuclear weapons. It is also considered a mineral.



# lead

(lead)

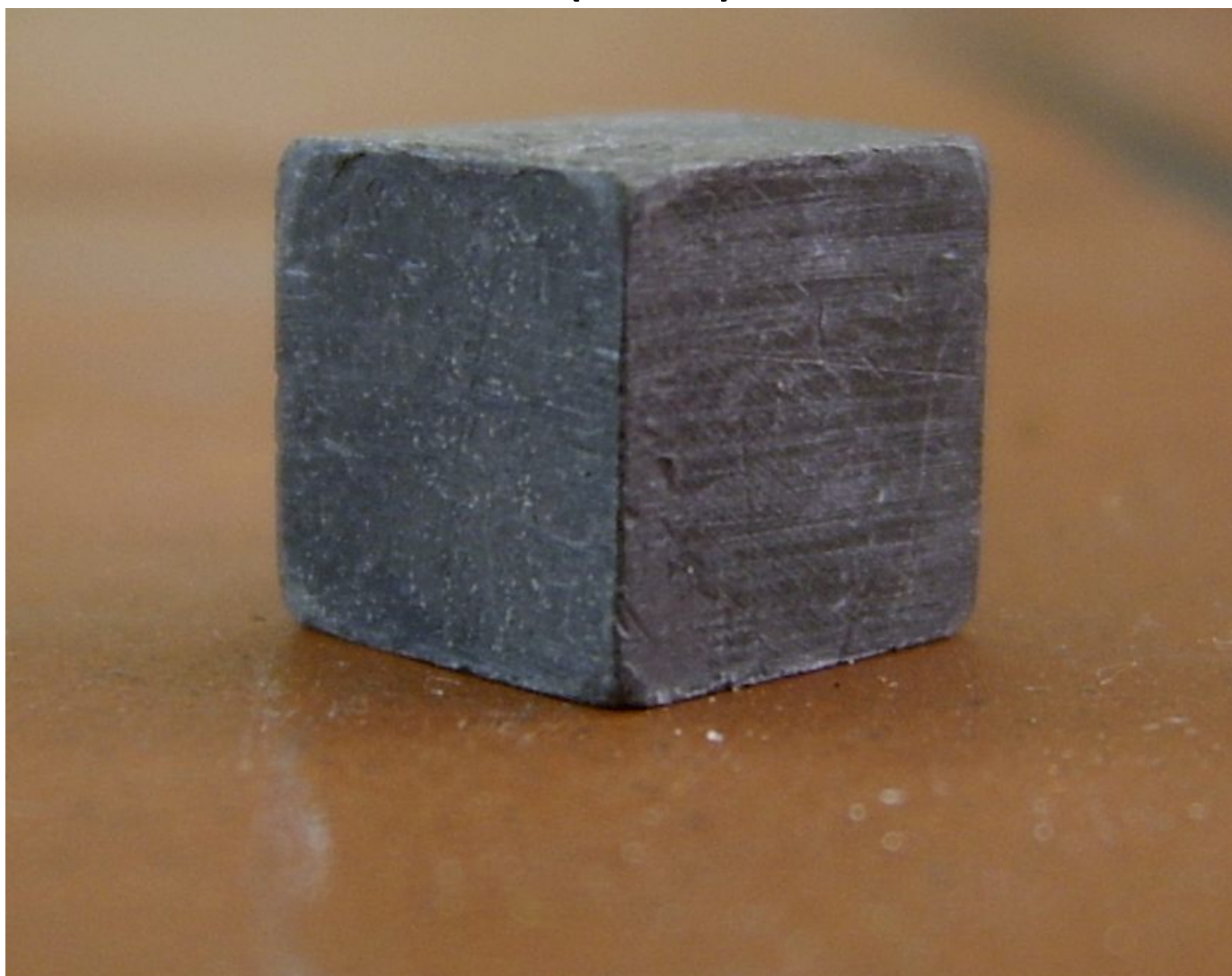
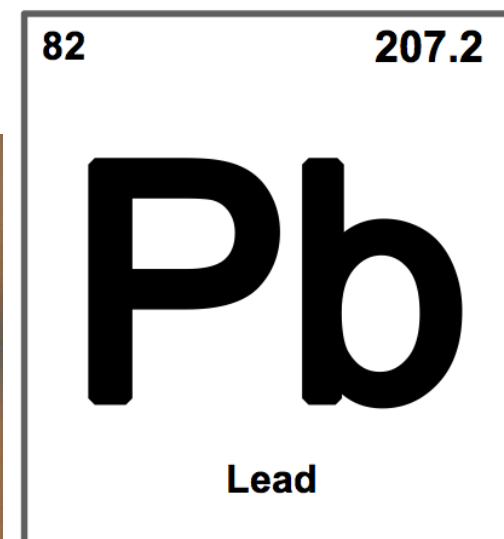


photo: Metal cube lead. Uploaded Lumbar~commonswiki at Wikimedia. 2006.  
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*Lead* is a soft malleable chemical element that is also considered a mineral.

Image: Lead chemical symbol. August 2015. Created by Jessie Thorsen. Used with permission.



# Elements, Minerals, and Rocks

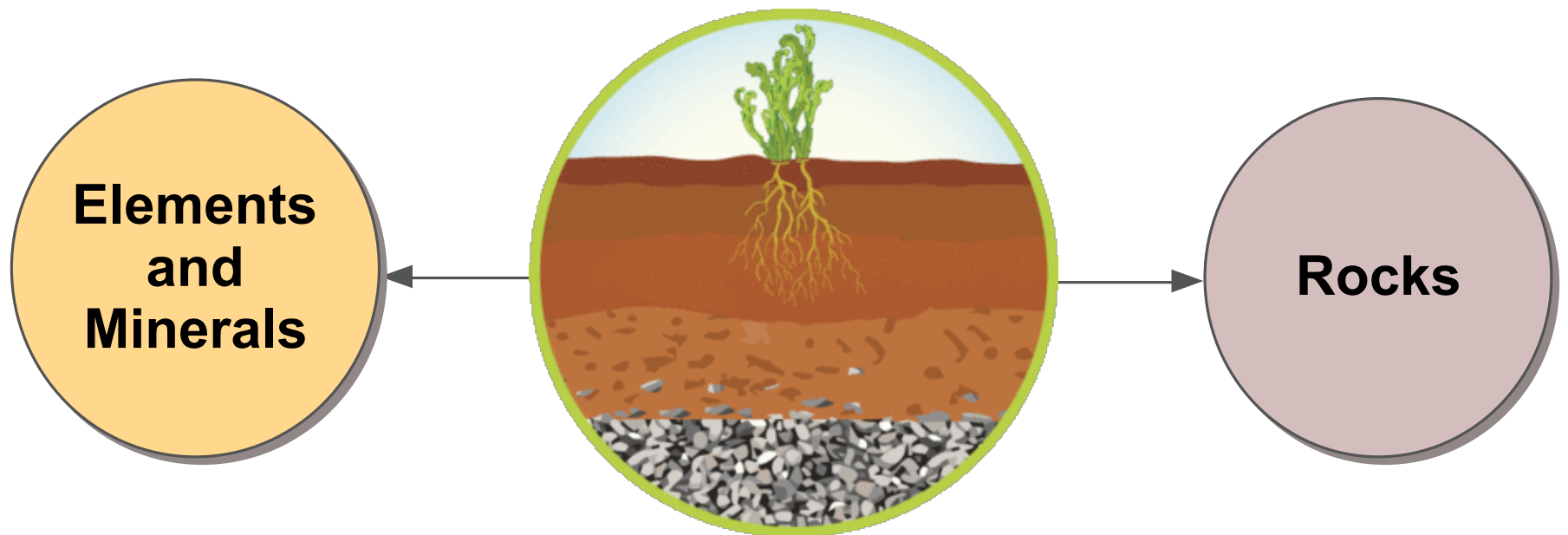
## Rocks of Different Shapes and Sizes



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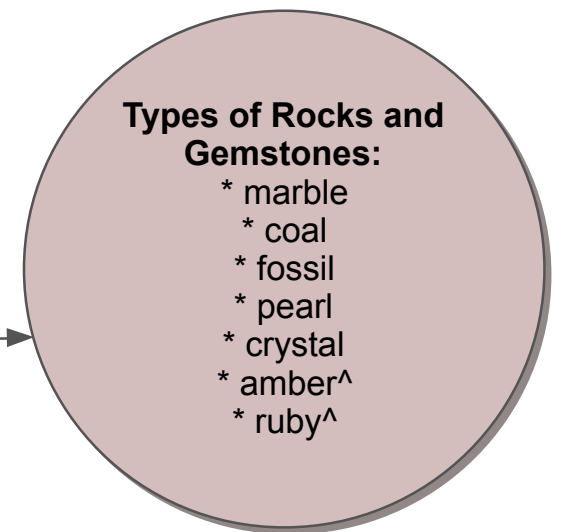
**Elements, Minerals, and Rocks**

# **Rocks**

Rocks are everywhere. There are different sizes of rocks, different types of soil, and many types of rocks and gemstones.



## Elements, Minerals, and Rocks— Rocks





# rock

(rock)





# stone (stone)

A *stone* is a small piece of rock.





# gravel

(grav·el)

*Gravel* is many small rocks together.



# sand (sand)

*Sand* is the very tiny, loose pieces of rock that cover beaches and deserts.





**dirt**  
(dirt)



**soil**  
(soil)

*Dirt* and *soil* are both words used to describe the upper layer of earth that is not rock.

# mud

(mud)

*Mud* is soft, wet dirt.





# clay

(clay)

*Clay* is a sticky material made of small particles and minerals.



# **powder** (pow·der)

*Powder* is a dry substance made up of very tiny pieces of something.





# dust (dust)

*Dust* is a fine powder made up of very small pieces of dirt.





# marble

(mar·ble)







# coal

(coal)

# fossil (fos·sil)

A *fossil* is something (such as a leaf, skeleton, or footprint) that is from a plant or animal which lived in ancient times and that you can see in some rocks.





# pearl

(pearl)

A *pearl* is a growth within the shell of some mollusks. It is used to make jewelry.



# crystal

(crys·tal)





# amber

(am·ber)

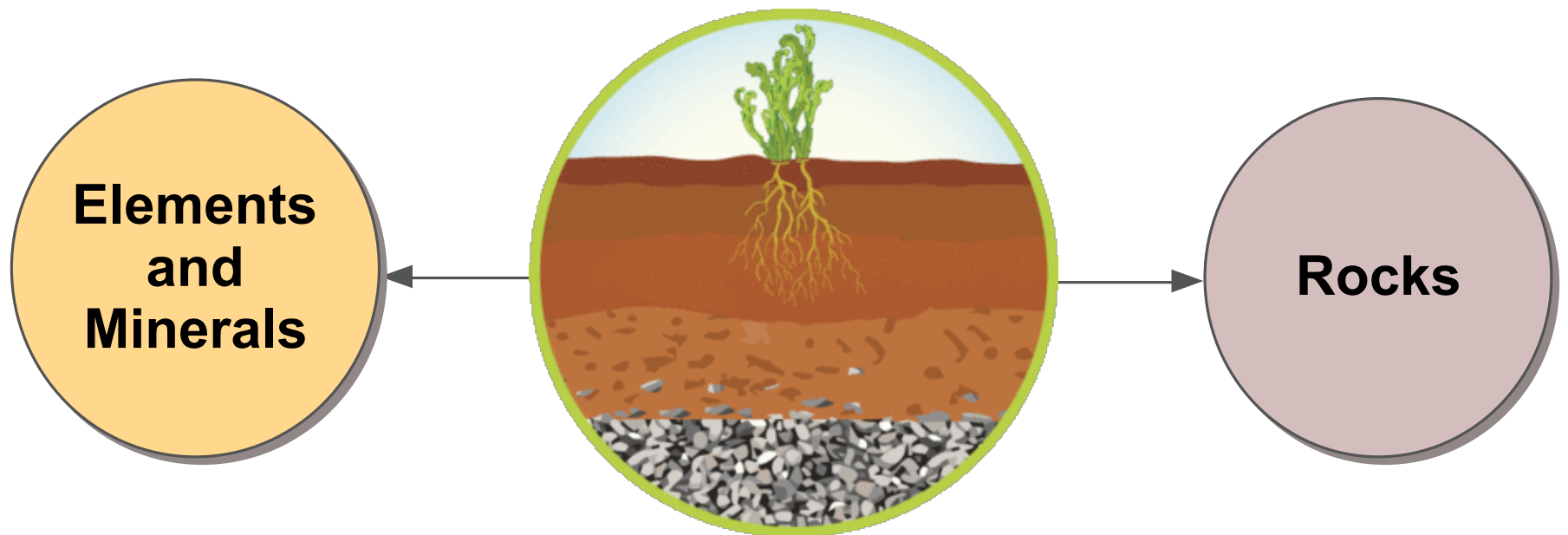


# **ruby**

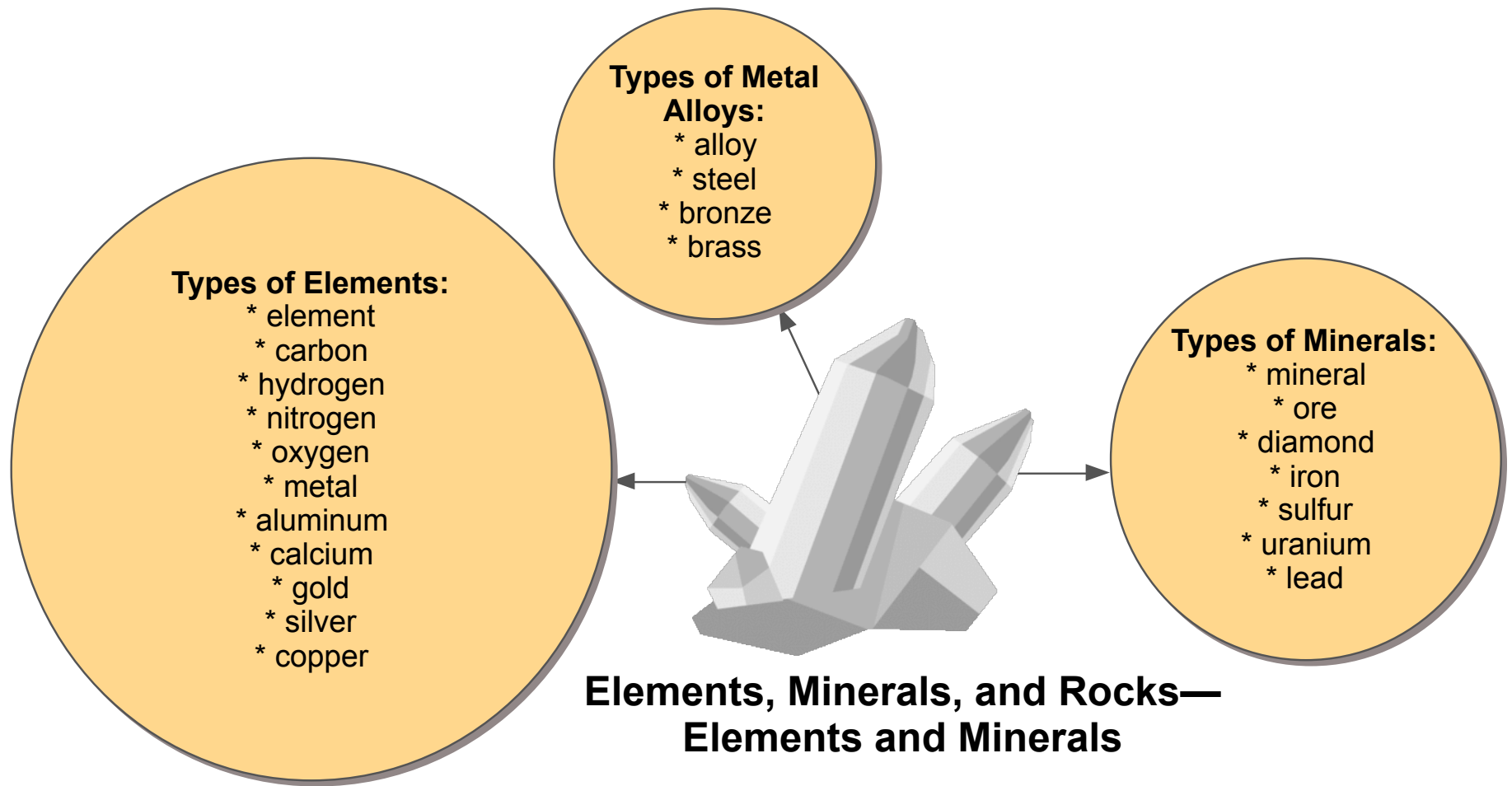
(ru·by)







**Elements, Minerals, and Rocks**







**Elements, Minerals, and Rocks—  
Rocks**

