Copper is considered to be humankind’s oldest metal. It is theorised Neolithic communities used copper as an alternative to stone tools during 8000 BC. Ancient Egyptians believed copper was sacred and gave its wearer magical powers.

**Properties**
- Discovered: Prehistoric
- Melting point: 1084.6°C
- Density: 3.96 g/cm³
- Conductivity: High
- Malleability: High

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Australia’s resource
- 12% Share of world copper resources in 2016
- 916,000 t Australia’s production of mined copper in 2016-17
- 2nd Largest share of world copper resources in 2016
- $136 m Copper exploration expenditure in 2016-17

Economic contribution
- 921,000 t Export volume of Australian copper in 2016-17
- $7.5 b Value of Australia’s copper exports in 2016-17
- $823 m Wages to copper mine workers in 2016-17
- 5,700 Australia’s copper mining jobs in 2016-17

Copper at work
- Electrical wiring
- Circuit board
- Plumbing
- Homewares
- Instruments
- Electric cars

Sources: Geoscience Australia; USGS; Department of Industry, Innovation and Science; ABS; WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety