

# Webelos Geologist Activity Badge

## Outdoor Group

Geologists study the history of the earth. Geologists use rocks and where they are found to study earth's history. Volcanoes, geysers, earthquakes and fossils also teach geologists about the earth. Webelos Scouts can learn things that a geologist must know.

### IDEAS FOR DEN ACTIVITIES

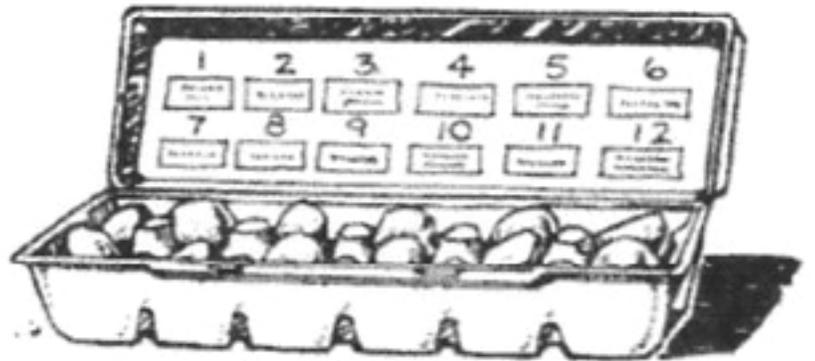
- Go on a treasure hunt for rocks and minerals and start a rock collection.
- Make a volcano.
- Visit a cemetery (especially if rocks are hard to find in your area).
- Visit a geology exhibit, museum or collection.
- Visit an industry that uses geological materials.
- Visit a jewelry shop.
- Invite a geologist to come to den meeting and talk to the den about what he does and also why he became a geologist.
- Invite a contractor come to talk to boys about minerals used in home building.

### ACTIVITIES

#### **ROCKS AND MINERALS**

A good place to find rock specimens is in roadbeds,, riverbeds, roads under construction, and building excavations (where allowable). Choose rock and mineral specimens carefully. Don't pick up just anything. Wrap each in a piece of newspaper with a card to show where you found it.

Rocks can be chiseled to standard size (such as 2 by 3 inches) with a geologist's hammer or a regular hammer and a cold chisel. (Be sure to wear protective glasses when chiseling). Label rocks by attaching a small label to the underside with transparent



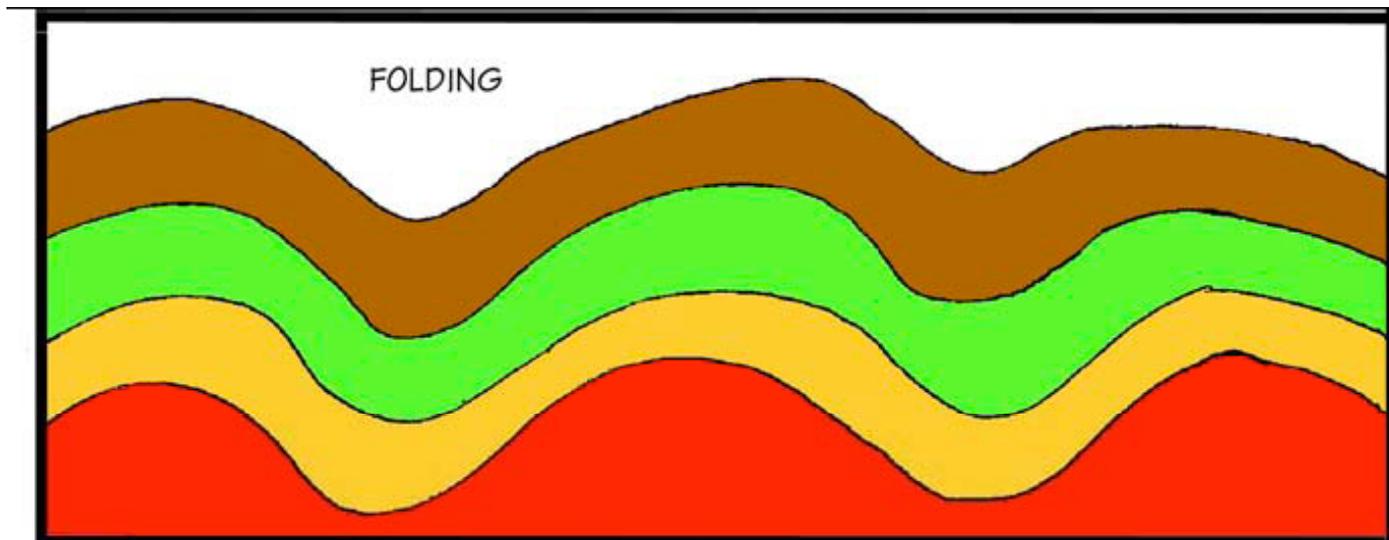
tape or by painting a small white spot, on which you can write the identification. Show the types of rock, where it was found, and the date. Small rocks can be kept in pill bottles. Larger rocks may be kept in sectioned boxes or egg cartons.

#### **GEOLOGIC FORCES: USING MODELING CLAY**

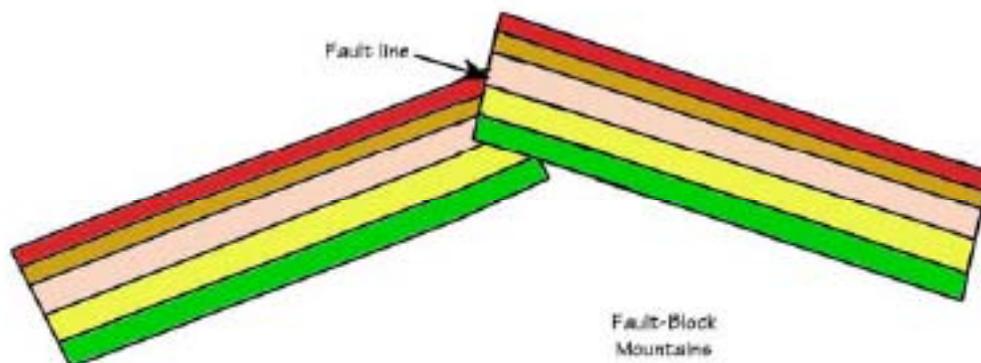
Modeling Clay can help Webelos Scouts understand many of the forces of nature that create hills and form valleys. First, take several different colors of clay and roll them out into flat pancakes. Lay these pancakes on top of the other and use a knife to cut out several 3"x 6" rectangles, so that the layers can be seen from all sides.

Take one of the rectangles that you made and push from opposite ends of the clay. Notice that the layers begin to look wavy. This is an example of **FOLDING**. You may also see some fissures forming.

Take two of your rectangles and slide them together. Push harder and where the two rectangles meet, you should be able to observe the effects of **FAULTING** as they slip at the crack.



Lay a clay rectangle over a small stone and notice an effect like DOME BUILDING, which would in nature be done by an upwelling of underground magma.



## EROSION

Erosion can be modeled by using a pitcher to slowly pour a stream of water over the hills that you formed. Notice small valleys forming and how they don't always form straight lines.

## MAKING YOUR OWN VOLCANO

### Materials:

- Plywood for volcano base
- Salt dough, plaster or papier-mâché
- Empty 2-liter bottle
- Paint, sealant (if you want to reuse this volcano)
- Liquid dishwashing soap
- Baking Soda
- Red food coloring
- White vinegar
- Teaspoon
- 1/4 cup measure

1. Use a sheet of plywood at least 8 inches wider and longer than your planned volcano to make the base, to prevent the lava from staining surfaces during eruptions

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2. Use salt dough, plaster or papier-mâché to form a mountain around an empty 2-liter bottle placed upright at the center of the plywood base. Be sure to leave the lid off.
3. Form the model volcano's open top tightly around the mouth of the bottle.
4. Make ridges and channels beginning at the volcano's top and ending at the base of the volcano for the lava to flow through.
5. Let the volcano dry completely, then paint it with acrylics or spray paint. Plastic aquarium plants can be clipped and glued to the volcano for trees.
6. Spray the volcano and plywood with a clear sealant after the paint has dried
7. Mix 1 tbsp liquid dish washing soap, 1 tbsp baking soda and a few drops of red food coloring in a cup
8. Pour the mixture carefully into the bottle.
9. Set the volcano in an open area, preferably outside.
10. Pour (let an adult do this)  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup white vinegar into the bottle and stand back to watch your volcano erupt!

### Tips:

- -Use wadded-up newspaper balls around the bottle to give the volcano its shape under a layer of plaster or papier-mâché paste, but make sure the surface layer of the volcano is solid, so that it can be sealed for re-use.
- -If the lava is too thick, add 1 tbsp. water to the soap mix.
- -To re-use the volcano, simply clean it off with a damp rag.
- -Do not attempt to seal the bottle once the vinegar is added to the baking soda mixture--the resulting pressure could cause the bottle to explode.

## More on the Geologist Activity Badge

Discover the world of volcanoes and learn why there are earthquakes.

Find out what minerals are used in our everyday lives.

At first thought, geology may seem too specialized a science for Webelos to study. But since Scouting is essentially an outdoor program, knowledge of basic geology is valuable to the Scout. Just about everything on earth, including living things, have a relationship to geology in one-way or another. The Geologist activity badge is designed to increase the boys' awareness in the outdoors.

Geologist is another easy badge if you work only on the minimum requirements. It provides an opportunity to bring in an expert. The expert can be a person or a video. For this badge use illustrations. Use paper to show mountains uplifting or baking soda and vinegar to make a volcano. This is one of the badges that seems to be oriented toward increasing the boys' awareness of the outdoors. While working on this badge, the boys will learn how the earth is formed, how rocks and minerals are used and how a geologist works. The Webelos Scout book contains information on volcanoes, geysers and the formation of mountains so that the boys will acquire a fairly good knowledge with only a little assistance. To most ten-year-old boys, the study of geology will not sound too exciting. Rocks, for most boys of this age, are for throwing. But the fact is, geology can be fun. Most boys have a rock collection. This natural curiosity about rocks can make this a natural starting point for the Geologist activity badge. If you can locate a rock hound in your pack or community, he can help the boys with some of the technical aspects of geology and study of rocks and minerals.

### Weather Rocks

Collect a quantity of "weather" rocks to pass out to every family at the pack meeting. Photocopy the following directions and sandwich between layers of clear contact paper. Give one with each rock. Make a big deal out of this wonderful present your den is giving away.

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### *The directions are:*

For best results, place your weather rock outside:

If your rock is wet...it's raining.

If your rock is white...it's snowing.

If your rock is moving...it's really windy.

If your rock is stiff...it's freezing.

If your rock is gone...sorry, you've been ripped off!

## SUGGESTED PATROL ACTIVITIES

1. Make a rock collection
2. Take a field trip to the central Texas area and hike on the limestone formations. Notice the folding a you drive through cuts in hills along side the road.
3. Construct a geyser to see how it works
4. Invite a housing contractor to come to your patrol meeting. Ask them to bring building materials such as slate, brick, limestone, marble, cement, etc. Where do they purchase these supplies? Where do they come from originally?
5. Start a collection of geologic materials used in home construction. Make a display for pack meeting.
6. Visit a geology exhibit, department, museum or collection. The Houston Museum of Natural Science has several good collections.
7. Visit a rock collectors club meeting. View the rocks on display. How did the people get interested in this hobby?

## CALIFORNIA ROCKS, MINERALS AND GEMS

Create a California Rock collection, of the types of rocks, minerals and gems that are possible to find in California. Quartz, granite, gneiss, flint, schist, feldspar and limestone are common stones in the Llano area of central California. Gold and silver ore are found in the Sierra Nevada. Petrified wood is common near Houston. Rock salt, from salt domes is a common underground formation, and salt domes can be a place that holds crude oil or natural gas. In limestone, try to find small fossils, like ammonite shells.

The US Geodetic Survey lists the following as some of the minerals produced in California: Clay, Granite, Limestone, Gypsum, Sand, Perlite, Sulfur, Salt and Talc. Limestone is used in the manufacture of the cement, and it is combined with sand and other rocks to make the concrete for house foundations. Gypsum is the rock in the sheetrock that covers the walls in most houses.



## MAKE YOUR OWN FOSSILS

### **Materials:**

Clay Small waterproof containers

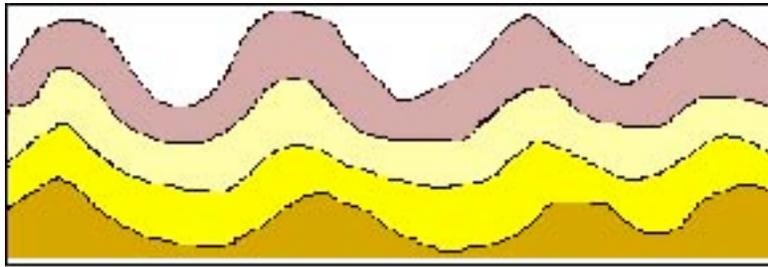
Leaves Small shells

Small dry bones

### **Ideas:**

Fossils are found in sedimentary rocks that are formed by having layers of sand or mudslides covering objects and then solidifying. To model this, mix clay and water so that it is gooey. Cover the bottom of the containers and let dry for 3 days. Lay a few objects on top of that layer and pour another layer to dry. Continue layering and drying. Have the boys discover how to find the clay "fossil" imprints.

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### MAKE A MODEL "SHIELD VOLCANO"

Shield volcanoes are formed when molten rock is forced to the surface through cracks in the earth, and lava emerges. As it flows and cools, the lava builds up slowly. On a sunny day, make a small hole in the ground to form a crater. Show how a shield volcano grows by pouring thick mud into the center of the crater, and as mud flows out, it simulates lava flows out of a shield volcano like Hawaii's Kilauea. Watch the mud dry in the sun, and this is much like lava cooling.

### MAKE A GEYSER

Geysers, real and model, can be very dangerous, since they involve boiling hot water and steam. Steam can be invisible, and can cause serious burns. One of the safest ways to demonstrate a geyser is when you are putting out a campfire. Find a hole in a hot log and pour water into it. The resulting steam plume shooting out of the hole is very much like the steam expelled by a real geyser after water comes into contact with superheated rocks below the surface of the earth.



### FOSSIL SNACK

Before your meeting, unscrew a stack of Oreo cookies, and make imprints with an assortment of (very clean) small plastic bugs or shells. Put them back together so that they look normal. During snack-time, have the boys twist off the Oreos carefully to discover and compare their "fossils".

## Geologists

Our knowledge of past geological ages is gained from records written in rock. The formidable mountain ranges of antiquity did not vanish into nothingness. After they had been ground down and washed down, their pulverized fragments helped build layer upon layer of sediment in the sea. The quantities of eroded debris are so vast that their total thickness, adding up all separate layers from different periods, exceeds sixty miles. Although the deep sea has been probed with modern coring instruments, no instrument in use today can haul up a sediment column hundreds or thousands of feet long. Perhaps future delving will provide the long-awaited information. But the record beyond the shelves has so far been quite inaccessible.

Geologists do not always have to drill holes into a mountain to study the sequence of events. Like the folds of a bed sheet with which they are often compared, the folds of mountains have a tendency to flop over on their sides. Layers that once were stacked on top of one another are rearranged so that they slant upward or are even lined up on edge - a series of stony ribbons, each of which was molded during another age. Dozens of those ribbons next to each other form a graphic picture of the geological events during periods lasting 10, 20, or 50 million years.

Interestingly enough, all records, regardless of their age, reveal almost identical developments. Immediately after a geological revolution, when the mountains are young and high, rainwater tears large pieces from their flanks. After the mountains are leveled, rivers carry chiefly mud and silt. There is, in the record of sedimentary rocks, an almost monotonous repetition of coarse material followed by finely ground materials.

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To most ten year old boys, the study of geology will not sound too exciting. Rocks, for most boys of this age, are for throwing. But the fact is, geology can be fun. Here's another opportunity for the Webelos leader to present the subject in such a way that the boys will find it not only fun, but they'll learn a good deal, also. This is one of the badges that is oriented toward increasing the boys' awareness of the outdoors. While working on this badge, the boys will learn how the earth is formed, how rocks and minerals are used, and how a geologist works.

### Places To Go, Things To Do:

- Talk about how mountains are formed.
- Make and label a volcano diagram.
- Start or add to your rock collection.
- Go on a minerals scavenger hunt.
- Teach boys to recognize common rock specimens.
- Invite a geologist to come and talk with your den.
- Collect rock specimens.
- Visit a science museum.
- Visit an earthquake demonstration.
- Build a working volcano.
- Polish rocks.

### Types of Geology

There are two major areas in the study of geology - physical geology and historical geology.

**PHYSICAL GEOLOGY** deals with the earth's composition, its structure, and the geologic processes by which the earth's surface is, or has been changed. This includes: -

- Mineralogy - the study of minerals
- Petrology - the study of rocks
- Structural geology - the study of the arrangement of rocks on the earth
- Geomorphology - the study of the origin of surface features
- Economic geology - the study of the earth's economic products and their commercial and industrial uses.

**HISTORICAL GEOLOGY** is the study of the origin of the earth and its inhabitants.

- Stratigraphy - the origin, composition, proper sequence and correlation of rock strata.
- Paleontology - the study of ancient organism and fossils.

### Importance Of Rocks

Some of your boys may not think the study of rocks is either interesting or important. To introduce them to the subject, you can tell them of the importance of rocks and how they can determine the wealth of a nation.

The kinds and quantities can determine whether the people of a nation are poor or wealthy. The importance of rocks can easily be pointed out in four different ways.:

**Food** - Soil is made up of the fragments of rocks with their minerals and many other substances. Soil is a direct result of the weathering of rock of which it is composed. - Except for the products of the sea, all animals and people are directly dependent upon food grown in the soil. We, therefore see that rocks are important for life itself.

**Fuel** - Fuel comes from rocks. Coal is a rock composed of organic material. Hard coal is called anthracite, soft coal is called bituminous Oil is found in rocks such as sandstone and shall. Our economy couldn't exist as it presently does without a good supply of fuel.

**Mining** - Many metallic and non-metallic ores such are iron, copper, zinc, aluminum, lead, sulfur, borax and others really are rocklike. Without these ores, manufacturing as we know it would be impossible. We all know

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the importance of uranium for making electricity and creating other kinds of power that will eventually propel vehicles on land and in space.

**Construction** - Think of the tons and tons of crushed rock, gravel and sand that are used in making roads and buildings. There are the various kinds of cut stone used for building blocks and monuments, and the materials used in the building of your home and the many things that are in it.

### Let's Go Rock Collecting

Wear the type of clothes you would wear hiking or hunting. Old clothes that are comfortable and serviceable are best. Ankle high hiking shoes will help prevent bruises from contact with sharp stones. A knapsack type of collecting bag is ideal. Use one with pockets to hold maps, notebooks, small tools, and labels.

Use lunch size brown paper bags or plastic sandwich bags to hold specimens. Take along newspaper to wrap the rocks in first. As you collect each specimens, give it a number. Put the number on the rock before you wrap it up. In a small notebook, list the number, location, and the date. Later at home you can enter the information in your permanent records.

Almost every boy, at one time or another, has a rock collection of some sort. This interest in rocks and the earth from which they come makes the Geologist activity pin a "natural" for most boys. You'll find that the Webelos Scout handbook contains enough information on volcanoes, geysers, and mountains for the boys to acquire a fairly good understanding.

The charts below should be of some advantage in identifying rocks

### Hardness Mineral Scratch Test Uses, Importance, Etc.

1. TALC - Easily with fingernail. The softest of minerals; has a slippery, soapy feel. Used in powdered form for manufacture of paint, paper roofing material, rubber, face powder and talcum powder. Small parts fired in furnace used in electrical appliances. Occurs most abundantly in metamorphic rocks.
2. GYPSUM - Barely with fingernail. Of considerable commercial importance because of its use in production of plaster of Paris. Used for gypsum lath, wallboard and interior plaster. "Alabaster" is fine-grained, massive variety of gypsum that is cut and polished for ornamental purposes. Most commonly found as a sedimentary rock.
3. CALCITE - Barely with copper penny. Calcite has more varieties than any other mineral except quartz. One type of clear, colorless calcite is used for optical prisms because of its power of dividing a ray of light passing through it into two separate rays. Limestone and marble are varieties to calcite. Limestone is used in the manufacture of cement and mortar, also used as a building stone.
4. FLUORITE - Easily with knife blade. Fluorite is one of the most beautiful minerals occurring in many different colors. The chief use is in making steel. It also is used in making opalescent glass, in enameling cooking utensils, and in making hydrofluoric acid. Small amounts are used in making prisms and lenses. The phenomenon of fluorescence was first observed in fluorite and takes its name from this mineral. Commonly found with metallic ore minerals.
5. APATITE - Barely with knife blade. Among the large group of phosphates, apatite is the only one considered a common mineral. Commercially, its greatest use is the source of phosphorus for most commercial fertilizers. After being mined, both apathy and rock phosphate are treated with sulfuric acid to make superphosphate, for in this form they are much more soluble in the diluted acid of the soil.
6. FELDSPAR - Not by blade. Easily with window glass. The feldspars, all of them silicates of aluminum with potassium, sodium, and calcium and rarely barium, form one of the most important groups of all minerals. Found in most igneous rocks, as essential constituents of most crystalline rocks, such as granite syenite, gabbro, basalt, gneiss and thus make up a large percentage of the earth's crust. Used in manufacture of porcelain and as a source of aluminum in glass.
7. QUARTZ - Easily marks steel and hard glass. Quartz is the most common mineral, and in some of its varieties, one of the most beautiful. Makes up most of the sand on the seashore; occurs as a rock in the

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form of sandstone and quartzite and is an important constituent of other rocks such as granite and gneiss. Some varieties used as gemstones, as prisms, and cut into plates for control of radio frequency. Varieties: crystal, amethyst, agate, onyx, bloodstone, jasper, flint.

8. **TOPAZ** - Harder than other common minerals. Topaz is highly prized as a gem. Those from Brazil are the most valuable. The pink color of some gem Topaz is obtained by gently heating the dark yellow stones. It has a mineral hardness greater than any other common mineral except corundum.
9. **CORUNDUM** - Scratches Topaz. Clear blue varieties make "sapphire" and clear red the "Ruby." Hardest mineral next to diamond. Long been used as an abrasive. "Emery" was the first type used in this manner. The ruby is used in the laser beam.
10. **DIAMOND** - Scratches Corundum; hardest mineral. Hardness of diamond is greater than any other known substance, natural or artificial. Many times harder than corundum. Diamond is pure carbon and has same composition as charcoal, but does not burn readily. Highly prized as gemstone. Only 20% of diamonds are gemstones ..the other flawed stones have industrial uses, drills, saws, cutting glass, etc.

## Identifying Rocks By Luster

**This is identification by the appearance of the surface, independent of the color, due to the way light is reflected)**

**Metallic:** The luster of a metallic surface like steel, tin, lead, copper, gold, etc. Luster not called metallic unless the mineral is quite opaque, so that no light passes through even very thin edges.

**Submetallic:** The luster of some minerals is said to be submetallic when it lacks the full luster of the metals.

**Adamantine:** The luster of the Diamond - the brilliant, almost oily luster shown by some very hard minerals, like Diamond and Corundum - refract light strongly (have a high "refractive index").

**Vitreous:** Glassy luster. That of a piece of broken glass - this is the luster of most quartz and a large part of the non-metallic minerals.

**Resinous:** Waxy, the luster of a piece of resin, as shown by most kinds of sphalerite.

**Greasy:** Nearly resinous, but often quite distinct, shown by some specimens of milky quartz and nepheline.

**Pearly:** Luster of Mother of Pearl - common when a mineral has very perfect cleavage and has practically separated into thin plates.

**Silky:** The luster of a skein of silk or a piece of satin - characteristic of some minerals in fibrous aggregates, such as Satin Spar gypsum and most asbestos.

Some common examples of three main types of rocks are:

**Igneous** - Granite pegmatite, granite, diorite, gabbro, felsite, basalt, obsidian, pumice

**Metamorphic** - Slate, phyllite, mica schist, gneiss, marble, quartzite

**Sedimentary** - Mudstone, and shale, sandstone, conglomerate, gypsum, rock salt, limestone, chalk, coal

## Activities:

### Mineral Matching

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Metallic element resembling magnesium, used in making galvanized iron, alloys, and as an element in voltaic cells.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ A ductile, malleable, silver-white metallic element used for making machinery, tools.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Precious yellow metallic element, used in coins, decorations, etc.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Metallic element, light, reddish-brown color used as an electrical conductor or in alloys such as brass and bronze.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Steel gray, hard, light metallic element used in coppers - in springs.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ White, ductile metallic element used in coins, ornaments, table utensils.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ A heavy, malleable, bluish gray metal used in bullets .

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Choose one of the following:

- A. Gold
- B. Silver
- C. Zinc
- D. Iron
- E. Lead
- F. Copper
- G. Beryllium

**Answers: 1-c, 2-d, 3-a, 4-f, 5-g, 6-b, 7-e**