



## Pyrite



Pyrite is a common mineral found in a wide variety of geological formations in many parts of the world. Pyrite derives its name from the Greek word "pyr" meaning "fire" because it can be used to create the sparks needed for starting a fire if it is struck against metal or another hard material.

In Spain, Pyrite crystals form in perfect cubes. Many people find it difficult to believe that these beautiful objects have been formed by nature without the help of any human technology. These are called "Euhedral" crystals because they are so well-formed with sharp, easily-recognized faces.



The beautiful, rich brassy-yellow metallic colour of Pyrite has led to people mistaking it for Gold giving it the nickname 'fools gold'. Pyrite is quite easy to distinguish from Gold because it is much lighter but harder so unlike Gold it cannot be scratched. Pyrite can also replace an ammonite during fossilization creating a golden fossil.