

Name _____ Date _____

What Is Metal?

You use it when you wear a watch. You use it when you open a can of soup. You use it when you use a coin to pay for something. What do you use? Metal.	16 32 35
Metal is usually hard and shiny. Iron, gold, and silver are metals. So are nickel, lead, zinc, copper, aluminum, and tin. Steel is a metal that is made from iron and other materials.	49 63 68
Many things are made of metal because metal can be melted and formed into many shapes. The shapes can be large or small, sturdy or delicate.	81 94
Look around the room. Do you see a paper clip? A lamp? A key? Those things are often made of metal or have metal parts. The coins we use for money are made of metal, too. However, each coin is a mix of different metals.	108 122 137 139
A penny is mostly zinc with a coating of copper. A dime, a quarter, a half-dollar, and a dollar coin are mixes of nickel and copper. These four coins all have three layers. The middle layer is copper. The two outside layers are a mix of nickel and copper. Think about the different metals in coins the next time you are counting your money.	153 167 180 194 203
Metal comes from the earth. You may have read about workers who dig in the earth to find metal. Some of them search for valuable metals such as gold, silver, or copper. These rugged workers are called miners. When miners find the metal they are searching for, they dig it out of the earth. The holes that miners dig are called mines. The deepest mine in the world today is about 2.5 miles deep.	216 230 242 257 271 277

