COPPER is a basic element (Cu) and is the 8th most abundant metal in the Earth's crust. It occurs as a native metal and in a some 160 compounds, such as azurite, malachite, chrysocolla, and chalcopyrite, not to mention its alloys, bronze (an alloy of tin and copper); and brass (an alloy of zinc and copper). The specimen pictured above comes from the Keweenaw Peninsula, Michigan, and is referred to as "float copper", copper ore which was ripped loose from the earth's surface by a glacier, then traveled with the glacier to its ultimate destination and remained behind when the glacier melted.

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