

# Contents

## Preface — V

- 1 Introduction and overview — 1**
  - 1.1 Historic, ancient — 1
  - 1.2 Large-scale use — 1
  - 1.3 Eighteenth and nineteenth century discoveries — 2
  - 1.4 Modern, niche uses — 2
  - 1.5 Modern, major use metals — 3
  - 1.6 Recycling and re-use — 3
  
- 2 Copper — 5**
  - 2.1 Introduction — 5
  - 2.2 Refining and isolation — 6
  - 2.3 Uses — 8
    - 2.3.1 Piping — 8
    - 2.3.2 Wiring and machinery — 8
    - 2.3.3 Coinage — 8
  - 2.4 Bronze — 10
  - 2.5 Brass — 10
  - 2.6 Other alloys — 11
  - 2.7 Possible substitutes — 11
  - 2.8 Recycling — 12
  
- 3 Tin — 13**
  - 3.1 Introduction — 13
  - 3.2 Refining and isolation — 13
  - 3.3 Tin, uses and applications — 15
    - 3.3.1 Solders — 15
    - 3.3.2 Plating — 15
    - 3.3.3 Niobium–tin — 16
    - 3.3.4 Glass production — 16
    - 3.3.5 Tin in polyvinyl chloride — 16
  - 3.4 Possible substitutes — 17
  - 3.5 Recycling — 17
  
- 4 Zinc — 19**
  - 4.1 Introduction — 19
  - 4.2 Refining and isolation — 19
  - 4.3 Uses — 21

- 4.3.1 Galvanizing — 21
- 4.3.2 Nickel silver — 21
- 4.3.3 Solders — 22
- 4.3.4 Paint pigments — 22
- 4.3.5 Sacrificial anodes — 23
- 4.3.6 Batteries — 23
- 4.4 Possible substitutes — 23
- 4.5 Recycling — 24
  
- 5 **Pewter — 25**
  - 5.1 Introduction — 25
  - 5.2 Production — 25
  - 5.3 History and traditional uses — 26
  - 5.4 Modern applications — 26
  - 5.5 Recycling — 26
  
- 6 **Gold — 29**
  - 6.1 Introduction — 29
  - 6.2 Refining and isolation — 29
  - 6.3 The carat system - 18, 14, 12, 10 Carat — 33
  - 6.4 Uses — 33
    - 6.4.1 Jewelry — 33
    - 6.4.2 Investment coins — 34
    - 6.4.3 Electronics — 35
  - 6.5 White gold — 35
  - 6.6 Possible substitutes — 36
  - 6.7 Recycling — 36
  
- 7 **Silver — 37**
  - 7.1 Introduction — 37
  - 7.2 Refining and isolation — 38
  - 7.3 Uses — 39
    - 7.3.1 Jewelry — 39
    - 7.3.2 Silverware — 40
    - 7.3.3 Investment coins — 40
    - 7.3.4 Photography — 40
    - 7.3.5 Batteries — 41
    - 7.3.6 Electronics — 41
    - 7.3.7 Ethylene oxide — 41
  - 7.4 Possible substitutes — 42
  - 7.5 Recycling — 42

- 8 Iron and steel — 43**
  - 8.1 Introduction — 43
  - 8.2 Ore sources — 45
  - 8.3 Steel production — 47
  - 8.4 Uses of iron and steel — 50
  - 8.5 By-product production — 51
  - 8.6 Recycling — 52
  
- 9 Platinum group metals — 55**
  - 9.1 Introduction — 55
  - 9.2 Sources, refining and isolation — 55
  - 9.3 Uses — 58
    - 9.3.1 Ruthenium — 58
    - 9.3.2 Osmium — 59
    - 9.3.3 Rhodium — 59
    - 9.3.4 Iridium — 59
    - 9.3.5 Palladium — 60
    - 9.3.6 Platinum — 61
  - 9.4 Possible substitutes — 62
  - 9.5 Recycling — 62
  
- 10 Nickel — 65**
  - 10.1 Introduction — 65
  - 10.2 Refining and isolation — 66
  - 10.3 Uses — 67
    - 10.3.1 Steels — 67
    - 10.3.2 Superalloys — 67
    - 10.3.3 Shape memory alloys — 68
    - 10.3.4 Plating — 68
    - 10.3.5 Nickels — 68
  - 10.4 Possible substitutes — 69
  - 10.5 Recycling — 70
  
- 11 Aluminum — 71**
  - 11.1 Introduction — 71
  - 11.2 Refining and isolation, the Hall–Heroult process — 72
  - 11.3 Uses — 73
  - 11.4 Possible substitutes — 74
  - 11.5 Recycling — 75

<b>12</b>	<b>Titanium — 77</b>
12.1	Introduction — 77
12.2	Location and sources — 77
12.3	Refining and isolation — 79
12.3.1	The Kroll process — 79
12.3.2	The Hunter process — 80
12.4	Uses — 80
12.4.1	High strength alloys — 80
12.4.2	Pigments, titanium white or titanium dioxide — 81
12.5	Possible substitutes — 81
12.6	Recycling — 82
<b>13</b>	<b>Magnesium — 83</b>
13.1	Introduction — 83
13.2	Refining and isolation — 83
13.3	Uses — 85
13.3.1	Elemental magnesium — 85
13.3.2	Magnesium–aluminum alloys — 86
13.3.3	Castings — 86
13.3.4	Automotive — 87
13.3.5	Aerospace — 87
13.3.6	Electronic — 87
13.4	Possible substitutes — 88
13.5	Recycling — 88
<b>14</b>	<b>Uranium and thorium — 89</b>
14.1	Introduction — 89
14.2	Refining and isolation — 89
14.2.1	Uranium isolation and refining — 89
14.2.2	Thorium isolation and refining — 91
14.3	Uses — 93
14.3.1	Power generation — 93
14.3.2	Weaponry — 93
14.3.3	Compounds and uses — 93
14.4	Possible substitutes — 94
14.5	Recycling — 94
<b>15</b>	<b>Americium — 97</b>
15.1	Introduction — 97
15.2	Refining and isolation — 97
15.3	Uses — 98
15.3.1	Smoke detectors — 98

- 15.3.2 Other uses — 98
- 15.4 Recycling — 99
  
- 16 Mercury — 101**
  - 16.1 Introduction — 101
  - 16.2 Refining and isolation — 101
  - 16.3 Uses — 103
    - 16.3.1 Chlor-alkali process — 103
    - 16.3.2 Barometers and thermometers — 104
    - 16.3.3 Amalgams and compounds — 104
  - 16.4 Possible substitutes — 104
  - 16.5 Recycling — 105
  
- 17 Lanthanides — 107**
  - 17.1 Introduction — 107
  - 17.2 Refining and isolation — 107
  - 17.3 Uses — 112
    - 17.3.1 Catalysts — 113
    - 17.3.2 Magnets,  $\text{Nd}_2\text{Fe}_{14}\text{B}$ , plus  $\text{SmCo}_5$  and  $\text{Sm}_2\text{Co}_{17}$  — 113
    - 17.3.3 Alloys — 114
    - 17.3.4 Heavy rare earth element uses — 115
  - 17.4 Possible substitutes — 115
  - 17.5 Recycling — 115
  
- 18 Lead — 117**
  - 18.1 Introduction — 117
  - 18.2 History — 117
  - 18.3 Refining and isolation — 118
  - 18.4 Uses — 121
    - 18.4.1 Batteries — 121
    - 18.4.2 Construction material — 121
    - 18.4.3 Ammunition, hunting and military — 122
    - 18.4.4 Alloys — 122
  - 18.5 Possible substitutes — 122
  - 18.6 Recycling — 122
  
- 19 Tungsten — 125**
  - 19.1 Introduction — 125
  - 19.2 Refining and isolation — 129
  - 19.3 Uses — 130
    - 19.3.1 Carbide parts — 130
    - 19.3.2 High-strength alloys — 131

**XII — Contents**

- 19.4 Possible substitutes — **131**
- 19.5 Recycling — **131**
  
- 20 Tantalum and niobium — 133**
  - 20.1 Introduction — **133**
  - 20.2 Refining and isolation — **135**
  - 20.3 Uses — **136**
    - 20.3.1 Major uses — **136**
    - 20.3.2 Wiring and magnets — **137**
    - 20.3.3 Niobium coinage — **137**
  - 20.4 Possible substitutes — **137**
  - 20.5 Recycling — **138**
  
- 21 Sodium — 139**
  - 21.1 Introduction — **139**
  - 21.2 Refining and isolation — **140**
    - 21.2.1 Downs cell — **140**
    - 21.2.2 Chlor-alkali process — **141**
  - 21.3 Uses — **141**
    - 21.3.1 Sodium borohydride — **142**
    - 21.3.2 Sodium azide,  $\text{NaN}_3$  — **142**
    - 21.3.3 Triphenylphosphine,  $\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3$  — **143**
    - 21.3.4 Reactor moderator material — **143**
    - 21.3.5 Alloying agent — **143**
    - 21.3.6 Sodium vapor lamps — **143**
  - 21.4 Recycling — **144**
  
- 22 Lithium — 145**
  - 22.1 Introduction — **145**
  - 22.2 Refining and isolation — **145**
  - 22.3 Uses — **146**
    - 22.3.1 Lightweight alloys — **147**
    - 22.3.2 Batteries — **147**
  - 22.4 Possible substitutes — **148**
  - 22.5 Recycling — **148**

**Index — 151**