

# 9 Fast Facts About Tellurium

**Atomic  
Number**

**52**

Discovered in gold ores by Franz Joseph Muller von Reichstein in 1783 in Romania

After the Latin word “tellus,” which means “fruit of the Earth.”

**Found in:**

- manufacturing films for photovoltaic solar cells
- metallurgy
- integrated circuits
- coloring in ceramics and glass

One of the least common elements on Earth

All tellurium compounds are highly toxic

Tellurium is a metalloid, meaning it possesses the properties of both metals and nonmetals

A byproduct of milled copper



*Grains of native tellurium appear in rocks as a brittle, silvery-white material, but tellurium more commonly occurs in telluride minerals that include varied quantities of gold, silver, or platinum.*

27.47	30.99
<b>Te</b>	
Tellurium	
52	
3.77	4.03

References:

[www.webelements.com/tellurium](http://www.webelements.com/tellurium)

[www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov)

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