



# Pyrites Crystals

Iron Disulphide ( $\text{FeS}_2$ )



Pyrite is quite a common mineral and found in a wide variety of geological formations from sedimentary deposits to hydrothermal veins and as a constituent of metamorphic rocks. The name Pyrite comes from the Greek word "pyr" meaning "fire," and was named such because it was found that sparks would fly from it if struck against another mineral (best if Iron or Steel). In early times, this sparking ability gave man one way of creating fire; in later times, this ability made it popular for use in early firearms

Common though it may be, the spectacular cube-like crystals formed by Pyrites in some parts of the world have to be seen to be believed. Even then, many people find it difficult to believe that these beautiful objects have been

formed by nature alone without the help of any human technology. These are called "Euhedral" crystals because they are so well-formed with sharp, easily-recognized faces.

The Pyrite in the cubic form come from Navajun in Spain and are quite unique. The crystals are mined from rocks that are approximately 125-130 million years old and were formed under the same geological environment of the Jurassic sediments present in the La Rioja region. Fossil Dinosaur tracks are commonly found in the rocks of the region.

The beautiful, rich brassy-yellow metallic colour of Pyrite has in many cases lead to people mistaking it for Gold, in the early Gold-Rush days particularly, hence the common nickname 'Fools Gold'. However Pyrite is quite easy to distinguish from Gold, it is much lighter and harder so unlike Gold it cannot be scratched with a fingernail or pocket knife. Ironically, Gold is often found adjacent to Pyrite deposits, and the only thing foolish about finding "Fool's Gold" would be in not searching a bit further!

The Mayans, Aztecs and Incas were known to polish large slabs of Pyrite to a mirror-like finish which they used for this very purpose. Native Americans believed they could look into one's very soul when peering into a polished piece of Pyrite. Their shamans used it as "a stone of power," and their medicine men used it in certain healing rituals. Pyrite has also been labeled the "Healer's Stone".



Pyrite is thought to create a better balance and flow between right and left brain function. This is believed to help transform the intuitive and creative (right brain) thought into logical and well-reasoned (left brain) action.