

Iron Pyrite



Iron Pyrite (in marl)

Iron sulfide (FeS_2) mineral is mostly cubic in shape, hard (Mohs scale=6), has a metallic luster, and a greenish-black streak. This specimen was obtained from Navajun, Spain (La Rioja Province). It is found globally, with major sources also in the USA, Russia, Peru, and Germany. The pyrite cubes are loosely imbedded in "marl," which is a calcium carbonate or lime-rich mud or mudstone with variable amounts of clay.

Pyrite is also called "Fool's Gold" because of its pale brass-yellow color. The mineral has limited commercial uses, mainly for the production of sulfur dioxide for industrial applications (e.g. the paper industry) and in the manufacture of sulfuric acid.

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May 2010