# Iron’s symbol is Fe and its atomic number is 26. The atomic mass number is 55.845. The group number is 8 and the period number is 4 (periodic table).

# Some physical properties of iron include ductile and malleable. Also, it is a silvery-white or grayish metal. Iron’s boiling point is 5,400 degrees Fahrenheit and its melting point is 2,797 degrees Fahrenheit. There are three naturally occurring magnetic elements. They are iron, nickel, and cobalt ([www.reference.com](http://www.reference.com)).

# Iron is a very active metal. If iron reacts with very hot water and steam to produce hydrogen gas. Also, it will dissolve in most acids and reacts with many other elements. If it combines with oxygen in moist air, the product of reaction is iron oxide, also known as rust (education.jlab.org and [www.chemistryexplained.com](http://www.chemistryexplained.com))

# Some uses of iron are automotive, construction, containers, packing, shipping, machines, rail transportation, oil and gas industries, electrical equipment, appliances, and utensils (www.chemistyexplained.com). Also iron is an element that makes up steel (chemicool.com @ 2013).

# There are naturally four occurring isotopes of iron, iron-54, iron-56, iron-57, and iron-58. Iron also consists of six radioactive isotopes. Two of the radioactive isotopes are iron-55 and iron-59, they are used to study the way in which red blood cells are developed in the body (education.jlab.org).

# Iron was discovered thousands of years ago. The discovery of iron led to tools and weapons that were harder and more durable than those known during previous Bronze Age. Today more than 90 percent of all metal refined in the world is iron.

# Iron is the cheapest and the most abundant of all metals. Iron has a very high tensile strength. The symbol of iron is Fe and it comes from the Latin word Ferrum (www.chemistryexplained.com) Also iron is a transition metal, which means it is part of group 3-12 on the Periodic Table (periodic table).

# Your body needs iron to make the proteins hemoglobin and myoglobin. Hemoglobin is found in red blood cells and myoglobin is found in muscles. Iron is also part of many other proteins and enzymes in the body ([www.nlm.nih.com](http://www.nlm.nih.com)).

# Iron is the 4th most abundant element in the Earth’s crust, second (next to aluminum). Iron is also the most common metal. It is never found in its pure state in nature, the production takes place in a blast furnace. Molten iron (“pig iron”) contains impurities such as carbon, manganese, and silicon. It is usually too brittle for most applications.

# Around 1000 B.C., someone added carbon and iron to make steel. It was probably an accident-a coming together of molten iron and charcoal from the smelting fire (chemicool.com @ 2013).

# The Earth’s core is thought to be made up of iron and nickel alloy. Also, Saturn and Jupiter, giant gas planets, are rich in iron at the core. Iron is the 6th most common element in the Universe. Steel is around 1000 times stronger than iron’s pure form. It is usually in steel form but machines, vehicles, and building structures are commonly built from iron. ( science kids @ last updated January 9, 2013).

Iron!! ☺

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