**What is silver?**

Silver is a metallic chemical element with an atomic number of 47. The element symbol is “Ag” from the Latin word argentum. It is one of the well-known elements on the periodic table. Silver also has industrial uses in addition to ornamental ones. It is heavily mined around the world in many countries and states. It has the highest electrical conductivity of all the metals. Silver can be known as solid or liquid it is known as a transitional element. Silver in one of the metals referred to as “Metals of Antiquity”. It is a heavy metal of high luster and is an especially good conductor of heat and electricity. Silver is a heavy, rather soft, white metal, very ductile, malleable, and capable of taking high polish.

**What Silver is used for?**

Silver is leading a revolution in technology and medicine. The white metals unique qualities are becoming more and more critical in healing conditions ranging from severe burns to Legionnaires Disease. Silver is the best electrical conductor of all metals. Because it does not corrode, its use in electrical and motor control switches is universal. A fully-equipped automobile may have over 40 silver-tipped switches to start the engine, activate power steering, brakes, windows, mirrors, locks and other electrical accessories.

**Silver as a transition metal.**

Chemists classify silver as a transition metal. The transition metals are elements between Groups 2 and 13 in the periodic table. The periodic table is a chart that shows how chemical elements are related to one another. More than 40 elements, all metals, fall within the transition metal range. Silver is also classified as a precious metal. Precious metals are not very abundant in the Earth's crust. They are attractive and not very chemically active. These properties make the metal desirable in jewelry, coins, and art. About a half dozen metals near silver in the periodic table are also precious metals. These include gold, platinum, palladium, rhodium, and indium.

**Where silver was first mined.**

Silver was first mined in the beginning of 4000 B.C. in Anatolia which is modern Turkey. Slag heaps were found in Asia Minor and Greek islands indicating that silver was in use long time ago. References to silver have also been made in the Bible. In 1942, discovery of silver was also made in Mexico, which led to mines being set up in many other countries. Bolivia, Peru and Mexico supplied 85% of the world's silver from 1500 to 1800. In 1500 B.C an enormous silver mine was found in Athens which lead to how it got to such a powerful state.