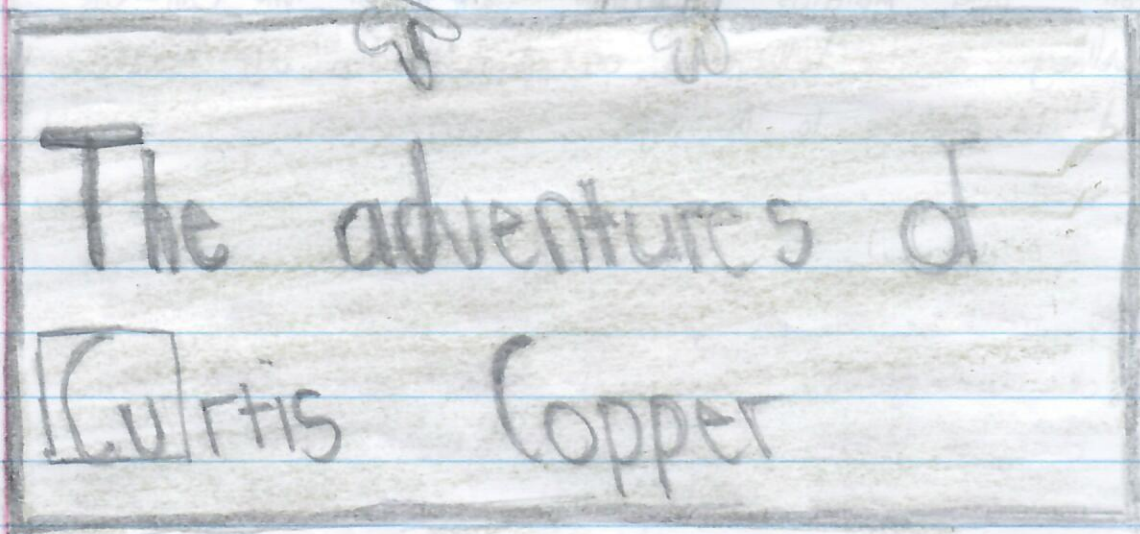
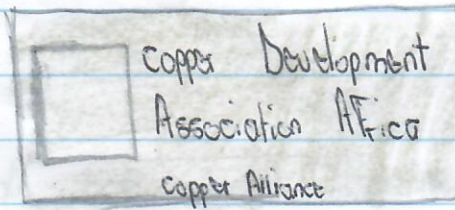


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Copper

Copper is the our hero and his story starts like this
Copper was first discovered in 9,000 BC when ancient man
was digging in the earth and accidentally stumbled upon it six
~~two~~ thousand years later in 3000 BC man had learnt that
copper was easy to mould into shapes so he made simple
weapons such as spearheads and axes. These weapons he used for hunting.

As time passed communities found many uses for copper. Soon they were
making pots out of copper as they discovered that their
food cooked more quickly in copper pots than in those
made from other materials available at that time. Ornaments
and jewellery soon followed as copper is a very beautiful
metal and is pleasing to the eye.

Two basic methods of mining are used. These are called
Open Pit or underground mining. The sulphide and oxide ores
are either dug or blasted out of the ground. There are three
main copper ores called chalcopyrite, bornite and malachite. Once
the ore is removed from the earth it is ground
into a thin sloppy mud called slurry. The unwanted material
sinks to the bottom and what remains is sent to leaching
tanks to remove the valuable material from the ore.

 This is copper's story.