

Metals in the Book of Mormon

Key Scripture Ether 10:23

Explanation Many Book of Mormon texts mention various metals. This chart lists the types of metal that the Nephites, Lamanites, and/or Jaredites knew from their scriptures or found in the Americas. These references are grouped according to the use of the metal in each case. Brass (especially in connection with the plates of brass) is mentioned most often in religious contexts, while gold and silver (often mentioned together) were used largely in commerce or for ornamentation.

Sources Andrew Holdaway, student of John W. Welch, Book of Mormon 121H, Brigham Young University, fall 1997. See also John L. Sorenson, "Metals and Metallurgy Relating to the Book of Mormon Text" (Provo, Utah: FARMS, 1992).

Metals in the Book of Mormon

Use	General Reference	Weapons	Religious Artifacts	Currency or Property	Ornamentation or Riches
Gold and Silver	1 Nephi 18:25; 2 Nephi 5:15; 12:7; 23:17; Jacob 1:16; 2:12; Helaman 6:11; 3 Nephi 24:3; Ether 10:23		2 Nephi 12:20; Helaman 6:31	1 Nephi 2:4, 11; 3:16, 22, 24; Jarom 1:8; Mosiah 2:12; 4:19; 11:3; 19:15; 22:12; Alma 4:6; 11:3–19; 15:16; Helaman 6:9; 12:2; 3 Nephi 6:2; 4 Nephi 1:46; Ether 9:17	1 Nephi 13:7–8; Mosiah 11:8–9, 11; Alma 1:29; 17:14; 31:24, 28; Helaman 7:21; 13:28; 3 Nephi 27:32; Ether 10:12
Gold	2 Nephi 23:12	1 Nephi 4:9	Mosiah 8:9; 28:11		Mosiah 11:11; Alma 31:28; Ether 10:7
Silver				Alma 11:22	
Iron	2 Nephi 5:15; 20:34; 3 Nephi 20:19; Ether 10:23	Jarom 1:8	1 Nephi 8:19–20, 24, 30; 11:25; 13:5; 15:23	Mosiah 11:3	1 Nephi 20:4; Mosiah 11:8
Brass	3 Nephi 20:19; Ether 10:23	Jarom 1:8; Mosiah 8:10	1 Nephi 3:3, 12, 24; 4:16, 24, 38; 5:10, 14, 18–19; 13:23; 16:10; 19:21–22; 22:1, 30; 2 Nephi 4:2, 15; 5:12, 15; Omni 1:14; Mosiah 1:3, 16; 10:16; 28:11, 20; Alma 37:3; 3 Nephi 1:2; 10:17	Mosiah 11:3	1 Nephi 20:4; Mosiah 11:8, 10
Steel	2 Nephi 5:15	1 Nephi 4:9; 16:18; Ether 7:9; Jarom 1:8			
Copper	1 Nephi 18:25; 2 Nephi 5:15; Ether 10:23	Jarom 1:8; Mosiah 8:10		Mosiah 11:3	
Ziff				Mosiah 11:3	Mosiah 11:8