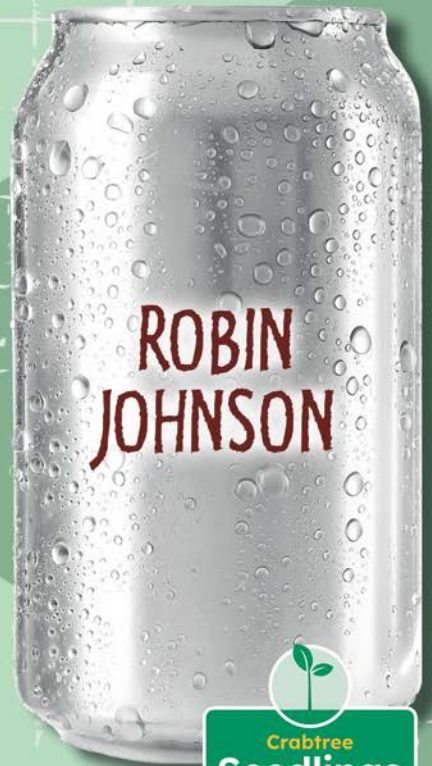


ROCKS AND MINERALS TO ALUMINUM



WHERE
MATERIALS
COME FROM



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Do you ride a bike or use a wheelchair made from aluminum? Aluminum is a material used in many things. We use these things every day. But what is aluminum? Where does it come from?



What Is Aluminum?

Aluminum is a silvery-white metal that is soft and lightweight. It does not wear away easily and can be formed into different shapes.





People use aluminum to make many products. These include drink cans, foil wrap, pots, and ladders. Cars, bikes, wheelchairs, computers, and many other things have aluminum parts.

WONDER WORD:
METAL

A metal is a substance that is hard, strong, and shiny.



Where Is Aluminum Found?

Aluminum is found in **rocks and minerals** around the world. Only certain rocks and minerals have enough aluminum for people to use. They are called **aluminum ores**.





A soft rock called bauxite is the main aluminum ore. Most bauxite is found in places that have hot, wet weather all year.

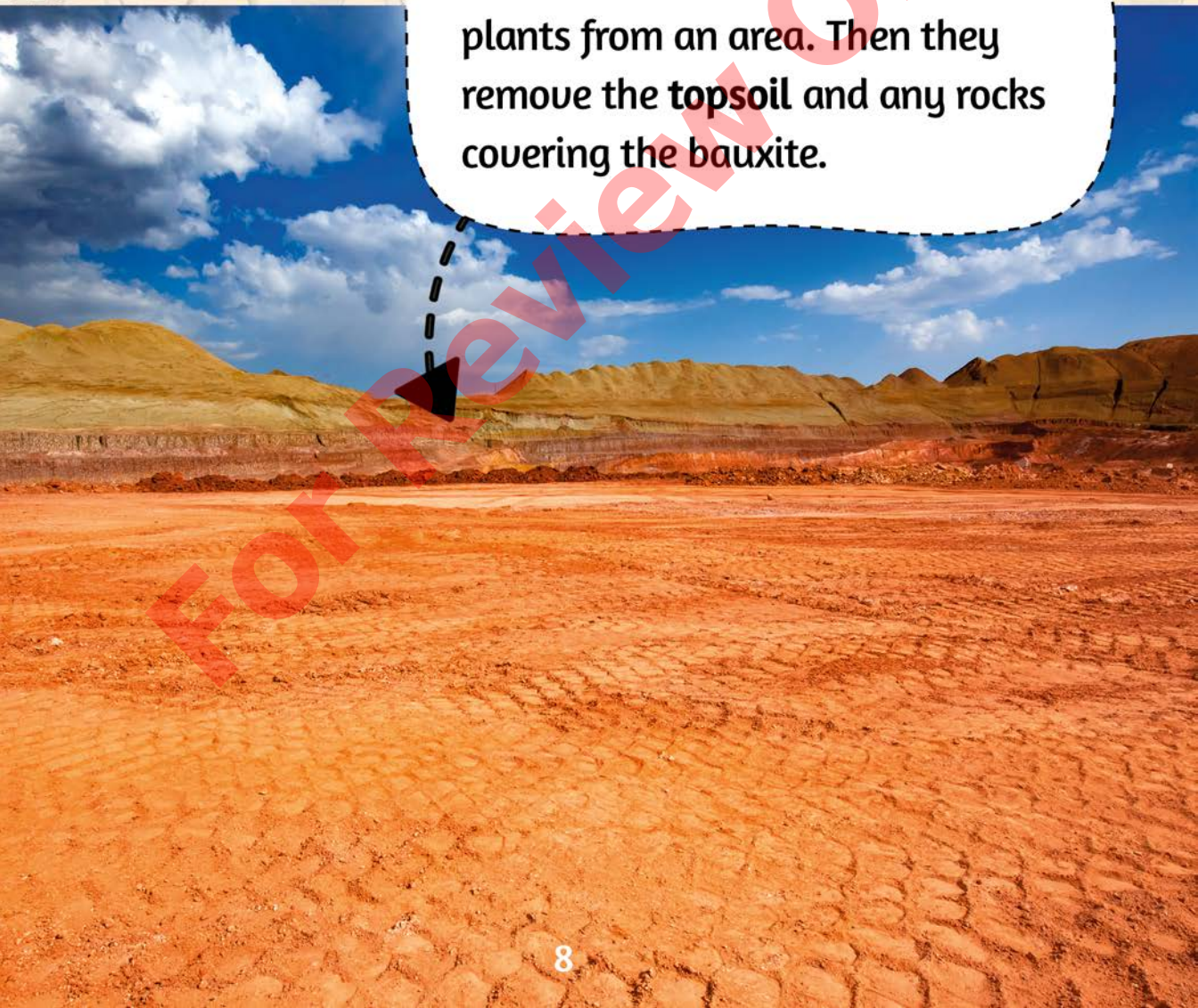
ALUMINUM FACT

Aluminum is the most common metal in Earth's surface.

Mining the Ore

People mine bauxite for its aluminum. Bauxite is usually found near the ground's surface and can be reached by digging.

Workers clear the trees and other plants from an area. Then they remove the topsoil and any rocks covering the bauxite.



Next, workers use big machines to break up the rocks. They use huge shovels to dig the ore and load it onto dump trucks.

