

- Aluminium is the most abundant metal on earth and the second most widely used metal in the world today.
- 1 million tonnes of aluminium is used in the UK every year.
- Over 9.5 billion drinks cans are sold every year in the UK.
- If all the drink cans sold each year were laid end to end, they would stretch from John O'Groats to Land's End 822 times.
- The melted down recycled cans are made into blocks called ingots.
- Each ingot weighs 27 tonnes.
- Aluminium is used to make all sorts of other things including:
 - Packaging – drink cans, food trays, juice cartons and medicine packs.
 - Transport – the bodies, engine and other components of planes, trains and cars, boats, scooters and bicycles!
 - Building – the structure and exterior finish of many buildings.
 - Road signs, medicines, home insulation, saucepans – the list goes on and on (like the metal itself)!
- The world's major bauxite producing areas are South America, Latin America, Africa & Australia
- Cans have been around for over 200 years.
- The first cans were made from steel and were used to preserve food so that it could be transported without spoiling.
- Aluminium comes from an ore called bauxite.
- Bauxite is a reddish-brown colour.
- It's called bauxite because it was first commercially mined at a place called Les Baux in Southern France.
- Over 150 years ago aluminium was more precious than gold!
- Aluminium is:
 - durable (long-lasting)
 - light in weight
 - strong
 - a good conductor of electricity
 - heat resistant
 - rust-proof
 - unaffected by gas or water
 - easy to mould, stretch and roll

