

# What is?

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## Bismuth

Bismuth is a chemical element with symbol Bi and atomic number 83. A pentavalent post-transition metal, bismuth chemically resembles arsenic and antimony. ([Wikipedia](#))

For over 150 years Bismuth compounds have been used in medicine and cosmetics. Bismuth is also used in environmentally sensitive fields as a substitute for lead. (Wogen Metals - <http://www.wogen.com/our-metals-services/our-metals.html>)



Bismuth was the early replacement for lead in pewter. Antimony came to be used in the seventeenth century. Nowadays, modern pewter alloy contains, in addition to 90%+ tin, some copper and either bismuth or antimony (see *The Pewterer*, [Volume 6.3](#), What is antimony?)

The melting point of bismuth is: 271.5 °C

Symbol: Bi  
Melting point: 271.4 °C  
Electron configuration: Xe 4f14 5d10 6s2 6p3  
Discovered: 800 AD  
Atomic number: 83  
Discoverer: Claude François Geoffroy  
Atomic mass: 208.9804 ± 0.00001 u

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Editor: Alan Williams

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