

Asteroids and Gold

So one interesting thing about asteroids is that they may be the source of the gold that we find on the Earth.

When the Earth formed, it differentiated.

So when it was molten, all of the heavier elements like iron sank and formed the core and the lighter rocky material formed the mantle and the crust.

Gold is what we call a siderophile or a metal-loving element, so all of the gold and heavy metals would have gone to the core.

So the fact that we have abundant amounts of gold on the surface that aren't in the core, we think that those probably came from generations of impacts from asteroids.