

## Forged in Fire: The Chemistry of Celtic Coins

You're holding a coin born of **ancient chemistry!**

The Celts were expert metalworkers — and true scientists of their time.

By harnessing **fire**, **air**, **earth**, and **water**, they transformed raw materials into tools, weapons, and treasures.

### The Science Behind Your Coin

Your coin was made by melting **pewter**, a mixture of **tin**, **copper**, and **antimony**.

When heated to around **230°C**, pewter changes from a solid to a liquid.

Once cooled, it hardens again — the same **reversible physical change** the Celts used when crafting metal artefacts over 2,500 years ago.



### Celtic Metal Facts

- **Copper** — Mined here in Ireland and used to make **bronze** when mixed with tin.
- **Tin** — Traded from **Cornwall** and **France**, showing that pre-Celtic Irish people already had strong trading links.
- **Iron** — The **Celts** introduced the process of extracting **iron from iron ore**, sparking the Iron Age in Ireland.
- **Gold** — Found naturally in Ireland's rivers and used by Celtic chiefs and druids for intricate jewellery and ornaments.

### Experiment at Home: Chocolate Casting

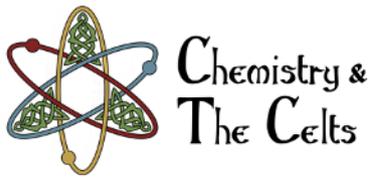
Melt some **chocolate**, pour it into a **silicone mould**, and let it cool.

As it solidifies, it goes through the same **phase change** as pewter — just at a much lower temperature!

The Chemistry of the Celts — A Science2Life Show by Scientific Sue

*Full of experiments, facts, and fun ways to bring Science2Life!*

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💡 **Fun Fact:** Chocolate feels so good in your mouth because it melts at about 34–36°C — the same as your body temperature!  
That smooth melting is chemistry you can taste. 😊

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### ✨ Finishing Touch

May your coin remind you that the Celts' greatest treasure was **knowledge** — and that every experiment brings a little **magic to life**.  
— *Scientific Sue, bringing Science2Life!* ✨

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