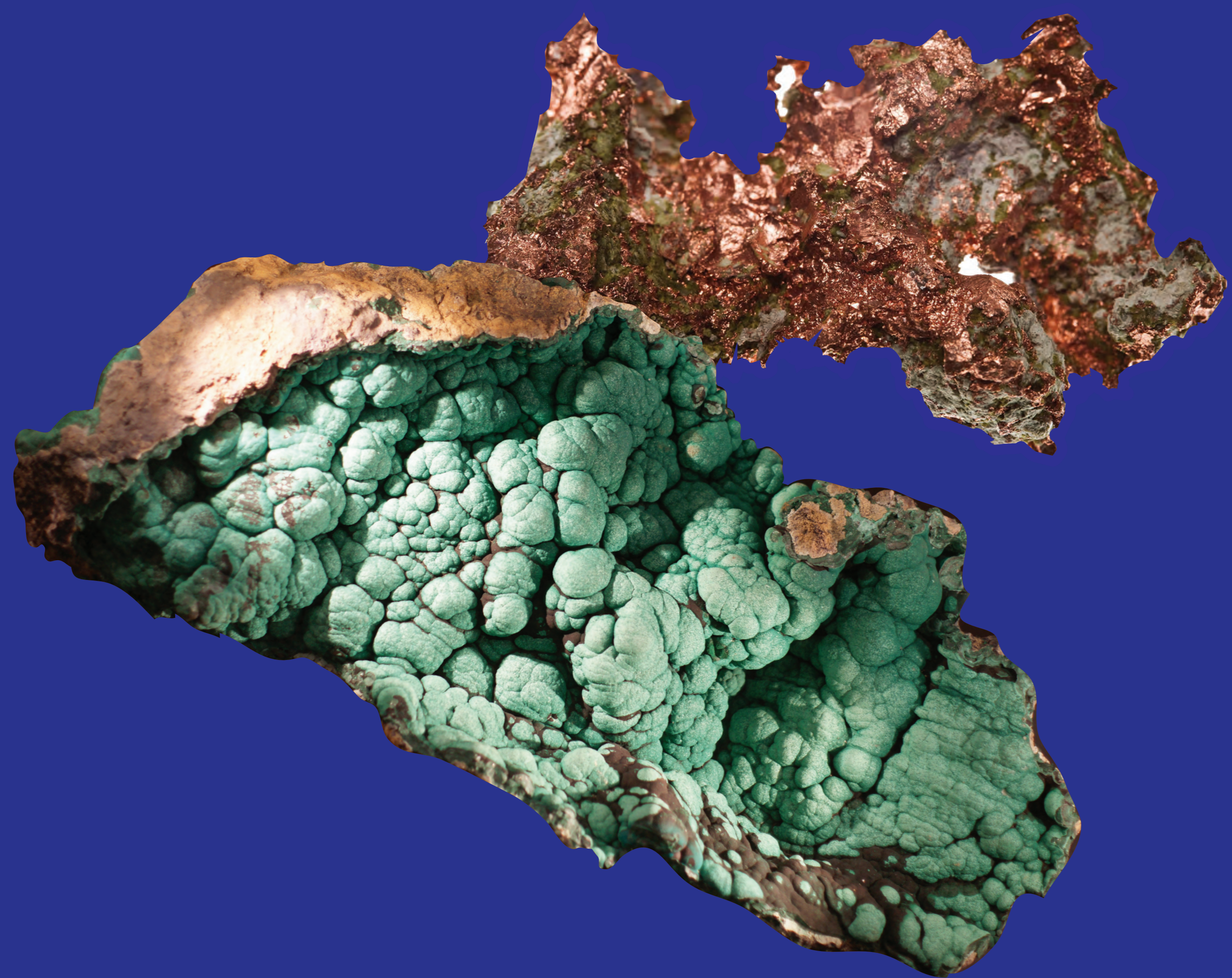


DIGGING • MAKING DEEP • MINES



Although some metals occur in their *native* or metallic state, such deposits are very rare.

Around the world, most metals are hidden within minerals called *ores*, which often look nothing like metals at all! Probably, this is one of the reasons why it took a long time for people to recognise the possibilities of metal.

To find out more about the challenges of getting metal out of these ores, visit our smelting team out on the front lawn!

But our interest in ores does not begin in the Bronze Age. Metallic ores are often brightly coloured or sparkly and often have an unusual smell or taste. However, *please* don't start licking all the colourful ores you can see, because some can also be pretty poisonous.

For over 35,000 years, people all around the world have collected colourful ores and other minerals to use as pigments or paints. People also discovered that they could sometimes use fire to improve their colours.

