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For thousands of years, Native Americans mined copper on Isle Royale and in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Native people used the red metal to fashion tools and ornaments and revered it as a source of power.

"The lump of copper in the forest is a great treasure for me. It was so for my father and grandfather. It is our hope and our protection."

-Keatanang, a Lake Superior Ojibwa, ca. 1830