



(a)

(b)



*Plate 16. Gold is quite different from “fool’s gold.” (a) Gold is malleable, has a high specific gravity (19.3), and a hardness of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ –3. This fine specimen, from Gross Valley, California, is NMNH #121297. (b) Pyrite (“fool’s gold”) is brittle, has a much lower specific gravity (5.01), and a hardness of 6–6½. This spectacular group of cubic crystals, from Spain, is NMNH #R18657. (Photographs by D. Penland, courtesy of Smithsonian Institution)*