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[Unlocking Earth's 4.5-billion-year secret: The case of the missing lead.](#)

Phys.org

Geoscientists have long relied on different forms of lead to understand Earth's geological history and how it was created over billions of years. However, there is a mystery that has been puzzling scientists for decades: Earth is missing a massive amount of lead that ought to be in the planet's crust, and no one knows where it has gone to.

Recently, a groundbreaking study from researchers led by Nanyang Technological University, Singapore's (NTU Singapore) Asian School of the Environment (ASE) may have finally provided new insights into this long-standing mystery.

By exploring how lead behaves under the crushing pressures of Earth's interior, they found that the solution to one of our planet's oldest chemical secrets could in fact be hiding beneath our feet in the planet's mantle layer. Their study was [published](#) in *Nature Communications*.

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