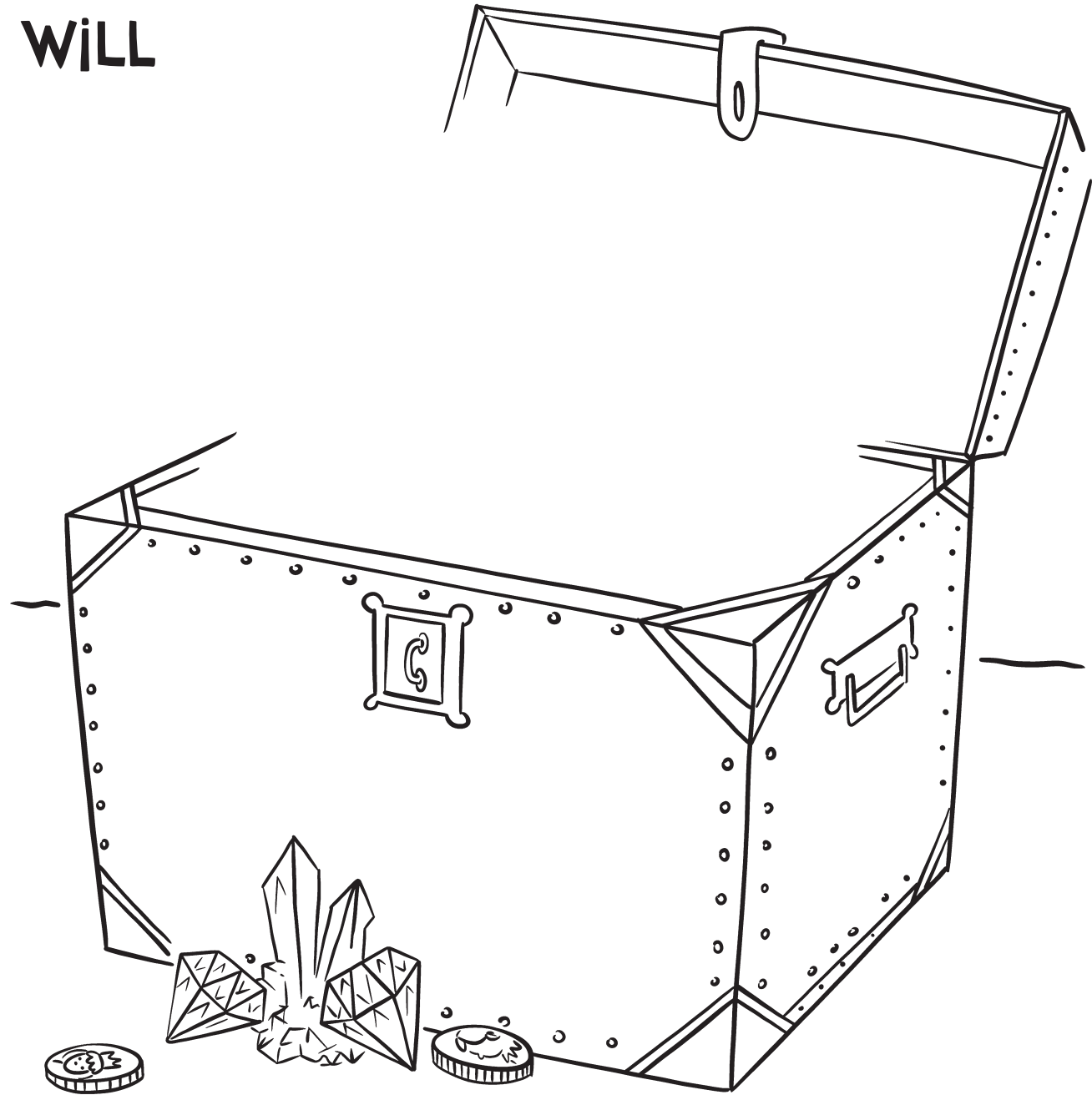
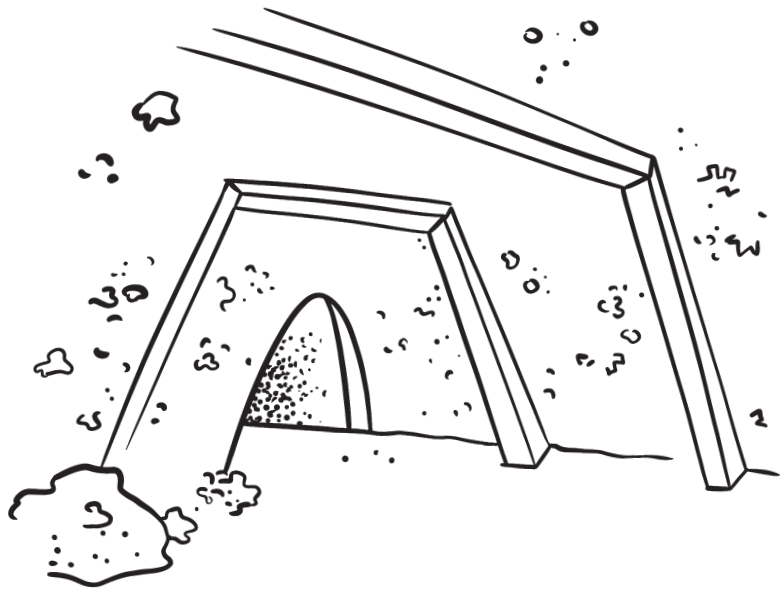


WHAT RARE TREASURES WILL YOU FIND IN THE MINE?





! Rare treasures

We use a lot of technology in our everyday lives: in our mobile phones, tablets and electric cars – there's a mini-computer in everything. They need valuable metals to function: copper, cobalt, nickel and rare earth elements. To obtain these rare earth elements, many countries use toxic substances that are harmful to nature and people. But there are also more environmentally friendly ways: Researchers have discovered a way to use bacteria to free the metals needed for technology from the rock they are embedded in, such as in abandoned mines. This works not only with rock containing the metal, but also with old batteries. Some of the metals can then be separated and reused. An important step toward environmentally-friendly technology.

→ *More information: [audi-umweltstiftung.de](https://www.audi-umweltstiftung.de)*