

Using Gold

Gold has been important to people for thousands of years. Researchers found gold jewelry made as long ago as 4600 BC. People began making gold

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coins around 560 BC. But gold has properties that make it useful for other things, too.

Yellow and shiny, gold is a beautiful, rare **metal**. It comes from inside Earth, and it must be **mined**, or dug up. More than half of mined gold is used in jewelry.

Gold conducts electricity very well. It doesn't tarnish like copper or silver, and it can last a long time without wearing out. The metal is easy to shape, yet it's very strong, even when stretched

out. Gold is used in electronics such as computers and cell phones.



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Some computer parts are made of gold.



NASA

Gold reflects heat and radiation, so it is often used in space helmets.

Gold also resists bacteria, making it safe for living things to touch. So dentists have used gold



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gold tooth

to fix teeth for almost 3,000 years! It is also used in inner ear implants, surgery, and medicines.

Gold is both beautiful and useful. People have loved gold for a long time, and it's sure to be valuable far into the future.

WOWSER!

Pure gold is so soft that you can shape it with your hands! It's usually mixed with other metals to make it firm.

✓ Brain Check

- Why is gold a special metal?
- How do we get gold from nature?
- What are three ways gold is used today?