

The Gold Trivia Quiz, KEY

Instructions: Fill in the blanks below as best you can. Remember: one cannot buy wisdom with gold, but it can buy you an education.

- Animals often help prospectors find the gold they are looking for. [Ants, termites, marmots, prairie dogs, rabbits. Swedish kids found 80,000 gold coins, a Viking hoard, in 1975, in some rabbit warrens. In Australia, eucalyptus leaves are analyzed for gold the roots have sucked up.]
- 18K means an item is 18 parts gold and 6 parts alloy. [silver, platinum, Cu etc; 24 = pure; why 24? Unk.]
- King Midas died of starvation because all he touched turned to gold. [Trump's fate?]
- NASA's space visors are gold-plated (2 millionth an inch thick), but they are translucent. [UV rays are reflected]
- When two neutron stars collide, the collision may produce a mass of gold equal to 100 Earths. [on Neptune it rains diamonds. A gold nugget is the ash/residue of a star's death. Same is true of silver] **NOT MADE IN E. LIKE COAL/diamonds.**
- In 1799, a 17-pound gold nugget found in the state of NC, set off America's first gold rush. [Cabarrus County, NC; c.20 m. NE of Charlotte; c. 30,000 soon moved in. **Brought to E. by meteor.**]
- Largest single nugget ever found weighed 159 lbs. [found in Australia. Dubbed the "Welcome stranger" nugget, discovered in 1869 in Victoria, Australia.]
- Mining fool's gold, iron pyrite, is useful in making fertilizers. [and sulfuric acid, worth \$160 mil/yr; sparks, pyr- fly fm. pyrite when struck w/ steel; ships full of pyrite returned to Europe to great ridicule]
- An Olympic "gold medal" is 92% silver. [1% gold plate, 7% alloys. Since 1912]
- The women of India own 11% of the world's gold. [more than US, Switz. and Germany combined.]
- Black Elk of the Lakota Sioux said gold is, "the yellow metal that makes the white man crazy." [useless to Nat-Ams. Obsidian, flint, Cu and Fe more useful; a meteorite in Greenland supplied all Inuit iron needs for years; Peter Freuchen found it.]
- One cubic mile of sea water contains c.\$100 million in gold and \$11 million in silver. [Costs too great to extract]
- Extracting 1 ou. of gold, the average needed for one wedding ring, requires removing and processing 70+ tons of ore.
- All the gold ever mined & found could be cast in a cube 60 cubic feet. 1/3 of Washington Monument.
- One ounce of gold can be drawn out in a wire 50 miles long. [It's most ductile; platinum, silver close 2nd and 3rd; it's one atom thick]
- The largest solid gold object is the Golden Buddha in Bangkok, Thailand, weighing about 5.5 tons. [The statue has a brick core; Tut's coffin. weighs 2447 lbs.]
- Lead has been transmuted to gold. [Cost? Trillions for tiny amounts than are unstable and disappear within seconds, but it has been done at CERN.]
- In Sub-Sahara regions, gold and salt were once traded ounce for ounce.
- One ton of gold would be a cube 13" to a side. [Cartoon showing an empty apartment, and a tiny bar of gold on the floor, owner says to his disbelieving wife, "I've converted everything to gold."]
- Nero's horse wore gold shoes. [They were quieter.]
- When the formerly enslaved Jivaro of Ecuador got the upper hand on the Spaniards, they poured molten gold down the governor's throat to quench his thirst. [He died. In Peru, Pizarro had demanded 85 cubic meters of gold of the Incas, & twice as much silver. When he got 24 tons worth, he killed the Incan emperor]
- Leave pure gold in the sea or the earth for thousands of years, and it will not oxidize. [Only metal that will not rust. IE's ring 18 K did blacken, silver]
- Gold or silver bullion is unminted. [It's cast in ingots/bars]
- Aqua regia is an acid that will dissolve gold, but the gold can be made solid again. [2 Nobel Prize winners dissolved their medals during WWII to hide from Nazis, later precipitated the gold out and had them recast.]
- You'll get c.20% of the retail price when cashing in most gold jewelry. 2009
- One British royal saltshaker weighs 14 lbs. and is 18" tall. [It's "The Salt/Ship of State." Largely worthless?]
- After the Golden Spike was driven in Promontory Point, Utah, 1869, it was quickly replaced by an iron one. [completed the 1st transcontinental US railroad; GS today in a museum Stanford Un.]
- One ton of computer scrap contains more gold than 17 tons of gold ore. [China recycles much of it]
- Col. Custer and 25 of his men tried to drive Lakota Sioux out of Black Hills because gold was found there. Land was legally the Indians. Between 200 and 300 Sioux died; mass grave.
- Ships that brought eastern prospectors to California were often abandoned in the San Francisco harbor. [Same true of the Yukon and Australian rushes. C. 300,000 '49'ers moved into CA; c. a million moved into Brazil, 19C.]

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