

Gold has been used throughout history to symbolise wealth, power, accomplishment and beauty, and as an enduring form of currency

Metallic element with atomic number 79

Chemical symbol: Au

Transition metal: conductive, ductile and malleable. Can be stretched into a wire and flattened by hammering or rolling

Does not corrode or tarnish

Weight of gold often measured in troy ounces (1 troy ounce is about 31 grammes)

Purity is measured in karats: 24 karats is 100% gold, 18 karats is 75% gold

USES OF GOLD



JEWELLERY

- Gold jewellery was first made 6,000 years ago
- 78% of gold mined per year is made into jewellery



RECOGNITION

- Gold is used for our most important symbols - wedding rings, Olympic medals, religious icons and Oscars



DENTISTRY AND MEDICINE

- Gold has been used in dentistry since 700BC. Non-allergenic in nature and highly suitable for fillings, crowns, bridges and orthodontic use
- Used in salt or radioisotope form to alleviate rheumatoid arthritis and tuberculosis
- Gold isotope, gold-198, is used in cancer treatment



FINANCES AND INVESTING

- Gold coins were first manufactured in Lydia in Asia Minor in 560BC
- Today, one of the most common ways to hold or invest in gold is in gold coins and bars (bullion)
- The Krugerrand, developed by the then South African Chamber of Mines, is the world's most widely-held and actively-traded gold coin. More than 60 million Krugerrands have been minted



ELECTRONICS

- Gold is perfect for circuitry use: it is a highly efficient conductor which does not corrode
- Used in cell phones, televisions, calculators and GPS units
- Used in computers to facilitate accurate and speedy transmission of digital data



AEROSPACE

Gold is used to

- Lubricate mechanical parts
- Conduct electricity in circuitry
- Coat spacecraft insides as a protection against infrared radiation and heat

WHERE GOLD IS CURRENTLY MINED IN SOUTH AFRICA

