

GoldFast Facts

Gold is:

- An element with the chemical symbol Au
- Found as alluvial gold in river beds or what used to be river beds
- Found sometimes in large quartz veins called reefs
- A dense, soft shiny metal
- The most malleable and ductile metal known; one ounce can be drawn into an 80 kilometer wire, or can cover nine square meters
- Bright yellow in its pure form
- Rust and corrosion resistant
- Measured for purity in units of weight known as carats
- Alloyed with many metals including copper, nickel and silver
- An excellent conductor of electricity
- Used as a store of wealth, in dentistry, medical applications, electronics, glass protection and as an edible decoration in food and drinks



Gold – Image courtesy of Queensland Resources Council

For more information on gold see [Geoscience Australia](http://www.geoscience.gov.au)

