

WHY IS GOLD SPECIAL?

Gold is special for a lot of reasons. It is a beautiful yellow colour and is one of the world's shiniest metals. Pieces of gold must have looked amazing when they were first discovered.

Gold is a soft metal, so it can be easily made into different shapes. People long ago were able to work with gold using very simple tools. This may be another reason why gold jewellery was popular thousands of years ago.

People can carve designs into gold by hand.



Gold can be made so thin that you can see through it. A very thin layer of gold lets some light through but *reflects*, or throws back, red and yellow light. Therefore, a thin layer of gold can be used to reflect the sun's harmful rays because they bounce back again. This has made gold very useful for protecting *astronauts* and their supplies from the sun.

Windows on very tall buildings often have a thin layer of gold on them, too. This helps to keep the buildings cool.

