

Gold [Au]

Gold has been used and valued for nearly 6,000 years, dating back to civilizations in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. In the 21st century, most gold discoveries have been identified in hydrothermal veins, where gold is associated with quartz and pyrite and placer deposits, where miners panned through creek and river sediment for concentrated gold particles and nuggets. Gold has a very high density which allows fast moving water to sort and separate gold from lighter minerals. Although used widely in industry and jewelry, gold is one mineral that has monetary economic value in its raw, natural form. Gold reserves or depositories—such as Fort Knox in Kentucky—were created to help preserve the assets of the United States since 1937. Gold continues to be highly desirable and has an attraction that is unrivaled in society today. P29



Gold P29



Gold in Quartz OR27



Gold M48



Gold P30