

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Gold

Gold used in jewelry is mixed with harder metals to add strength and durability. The metals added can also be used to change gold's color, giving it a fashionable rose or white tint, or to lighten or darken the natural yellow tone of pure gold. Mixtures like these, of less costly metals with more valuable ones, are called alloys. Copper and silver are the most common metals mixed with gold to make yellow gold jewelry. White gold is usually made with an alloy of gold and nickel.

The measure of gold's purity is called a karat. The higher the karat rating, the higher the amount of pure gold: 24 karat is pure gold, 18 karat is 75% pure gold, 14 karat is 58.5% pure gold, and 9 karat is 37.5% pure gold. All other things being equal, the higher the percentage of pure gold used in the alloy, the more valuable and expensive the jewelry will be.

Gold jewelry pieces are usually stamped with a marking to identify the karat amount. While gold that is 24K is too soft for jewelry, 18K, 14K and 9K gold are all appropriate for jewelry, and they all make pieces that look great and wear beautifully.



1) Which of the following statements best captures the main idea of this passage?

- A. Although gold is very valuable, it is also very expensive.
- B. Gold jewelry is stamped with its karat weight.
- C. Gold jewelry is made using alloys.
- D. Colored gold is more valuable than white gold.

2) Based on information in the passage, it can be understood that pure gold is

- A. not used to make rings
- B. stamped with 100K
- C. an alloy of different metals
- D. colorless

3) According to the passage, the use of other metals in gold alloys

- I. can be used to make the gold different colors
  - II. makes jewelry more expensive
  - III. makes gold more flexible
- A. I only
  - B. I and II only
  - C. II and III only
  - D. I, II, and III

4) Based on information in the passage, which of the following is most similar to an **alloy**?

- A. a karat
- B. a blend
- C. an ingredient
- D. an accessory

5) With respect to the relationship between gold and its karat rating, which of the following statements is/are true?

- I. The lower the karat rating, the less pure the gold.
- II. The higher the karat rating, the more expensive the gold.
- III. The higher the karat rating, the more valuable the gold.

- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II, and III

6) Mr. Moneybags wants you to build him a car out of solid 24-karat gold. Explain to him why this is or is not a good idea. Be sure to use information from the passage.

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