



Gold through the ages

This task is about knowing how to find information in an article.

1 → **GOLD THROUGH THE AGES**



2 →  ← 3

Gold mask found at Mycenae in Greece. It was thought to be that of Agamemnon.

← 4 → 5

THE PLACE OF GOLD

Today we seldom think of gold except when we mention things like gold watches or gold rings, or see perhaps a television programme about pirates plundering a Spanish treasure ship. But, in history, gold has had an important place. Men have killed for it and died for it, so greatly have they desired this soft yellow metal which can be easily worked into beautiful ornaments and jewellery.

← 8 → 9

IN EARLY MODERN TIMES

Gold also played an important part in European history. It was gold looted from the Aztecs and Incas that made Spain, for a time, the richest country in Europe. It was this same gold that turned such men as Sir Frances Drake into pirates. But the treasures he took from the Spanish went into the coffers of Queen Elizabeth I, and thus helped to make England rich. Then from about 1850 onwards, there was a series of goldrushes across the world, which brought up from the earth more gold than even Midas could have dreamed of. First several large goldfields were discovered in Russia where, in places, the gold could be picked up in nuggets the size of walnuts. Then came the famous Californian goldrushes, followed shortly by those in Australia in 1851 and New Zealand in 1852.

← 6 → 7

IN ANCIENT TIMES

Gold was known and valued early in the history of the lands of the Middle East. There are, for example, some Egyptian monuments, over 5000 years old, with carvings of men washing for gold. Archaeologists have dug up marvellous treasures made of gold—statues, bowls, cups, necklaces, and even masks. At Mycenae in Greece, for example, a mask of a bearded man was found. It was believed to be that of Agamemnon, the high king of all the Greeks who fought over Helen of Troy—a city that existed only in stories until archaeologists dug up its ruins. Croesus, King of Lydia, an ancient country near the city of Troy, developed man's use of gold a stage further. Before him, men used to beat gold into rings or pellets and use it in much the same way as we use money. Croesus issued his own pellets of gold, but he stamped them with his royal emblem, so that they became what we would consider to be coins.

← 10 → 11

GOLD TODAY

Gold has been used for centuries as a basis for trade. Even today it plays a very important part in international commerce. Some countries use gold to guarantee the value of their currency, though of course no one still uses gold coins. The United States and France have amassed huge fortunes in gold and it is considered to be part of their national wealth. Because of its rarity, the value of gold has steadily increased until today hundreds of dollars are needed to buy a few grams.

Different parts of the article on "Gold Through the Ages" have been numbered. The questions below are about the parts of the passage, not about the passage itself. You do not need to read the whole passage to be able to answer the questions.

a) Where should you look **first** to get a very general idea of what this passage is likely to be about?

(A) 1 (B) 2 (C) 3 (D) 4 (E) 5

b) What part of the page should you read to get an explanation of what is included in the illustration?

(A) 1 (B) 2 (C) 3 (D) 4 (E) 5

c) What part of the page should you read to find out how the author has summarised the story?

(A) 1 (B) 5 (C) 7 (D) 9 (E) 11

d) What should you look at on the page to get a quick idea of the **main** parts of the passage?

(A) 1 only (B) 1 and 5 (C) 5 and 11 (D) 1, 2, and 3 (E) 4, 6, 8, and 10

e) Which of the passages sets the scene for the article?

(A) 3(B) 5 (C) 7 (D) 9 (E) 11