

Why do people love gold? 人为何都爱金子?

Vocabulary: value 词汇: 价值

As an English teacher, I've been lucky enough to travel to many countries all over the world. I've seen people celebrating everything from the arrival of new babies to the delivery of new cars. I've **attended** weddings, parties and religious celebrations in countries as far apart as Argentina and Japan, and I've noticed that gold – the metal or the colour – is almost always part of cultural events, traditions and celebrations.

From 'mashallah' gold **tokens** that people give to babies in Turkey, to the gold stars that primary teachers stick on their students' exercise books, to the gold **trimmings** and gifts in Indian weddings, to the gold **coffin** that the 'King of Pop' Michael Jackson was buried in. It makes me wonder: Why do people love gold?



Do you see gold as a status symbol?

For some people, gold seems to be a **status symbol**. Indian businessman Datta Phuge loves gold so much that he's even bought a shirt made of the stuff – at a cost of \$250,000. I'm not sure I'd spend so much money on a shirt – would you? But Datta Phuge has his reasons. He explains: "Some **elite** people want to own an Audi or Mercedes and have big cars. I chose gold."



So beautiful, so evocative.

For other people, gold is an **investment**. The price of gold generally increases over time – and in European markets it reached over \$1,500 per ounce in 2011.

And for many people, the **family heirloom** brings together status and investment. My mother has a gold bracelet that was given to her by her grandmother – who, in turn, **inherited** it from her own grandmother. It's quite a heavy piece and probably worth quite a lot of money. But its **sentimental value** is greater than its value in dollars: It's a beautiful object that holds many family memories. When the time comes, my mum will give the bracelet to me – and one day, I'll pass it on to the younger generation.

So, status and investment are good reasons to value gold. But, I think that the real reason people love gold is because it can be made into beautiful objects. Think about **Tutankhamen's death mask**. Have you ever seen anything so beautiful, so **evocative**?

People love gold because it **captures** our minds, our imaginations and, **above all**, our hearts.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Name two countries that the writer has visited.
2. Why did Indian businessman Datta Phuge buy a gold shirt?
3. Is this statement true or false? *The price of gold usually stays the same.*
4. What will the writer inherit from her mother?
5. In the writer's opinion, why do people love gold?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. People love to _____ weddings.

invest	celebrate	inherit	capture
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2. Many people see gold as a _____ symbol.

token	heirloom	value	status
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3. Family heirlooms often have great _____ value.

object	death	evocative	sentimental
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4. The 'King of Pop', Michael Jackson, was _____ in a gold coffin.

inherited	buried	invested	captured
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5. I have always wanted to _____ an Indian wedding.

attend	inherit	give	spend
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Name two countries that the writer has visited. **Argentina and Japan.**
2. Why did Indian businessman Datta Phuge buy a gold shirt? **He chose gold as a status symbol.**
3. Is this statement true or false? *The price of gold usually stays the same.* **False. The price of gold generally increases over time.**
4. What will the writer inherit from her mother? **A gold bracelet.**
5. In the writer's opinion, why do people love gold? **Because it can be made into beautiful objects, and because it captures our minds, our imaginations and our hearts.**

Exercise 练习

1. People love to **celebrate** weddings.
2. Many people see gold as a **status** symbol.
3. Family heirlooms often have great **sentimental** value.
4. The 'King of Pop', Michael Jackson, was **buried** in a gold coffin.
5. I have always wanted to **attend** an Indian wedding.

Glossary 词汇表

attended	出席，参加
tokens	象征
trimmings	装饰物
coffin	棺材
status symbol	社会地位的象征
elite	精英
investment	投资
family heirloom	传家宝
inherited	继承的
sentimental value	情感价值
Tutankhamen's death mask	图坦卡蒙的木乃伊面具
evocative	唤起回忆或想象的
captures	捕捉，抓住
above all	最重要的是