

Lesson 51: Precious Metals & Utility — Gold

PLL PART TWO



Classical Inquiry • Gold

*“What is the color of gold? Where is it found? Name four things that are made of gold. Which of them are useful? Which beautiful?”*

**Precious Metal Focus:** Geological origin (nuggets & veins) • Lustrous yellow metal • Classification: Utility vs. Beauty.

1 GEOLOGY & COLOR DISCOVERY

Study the properties of gold from nature to crafted treasures. Write your answers below.

1. **Color & Shine:** What color is gold? A rich, shining \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Geology:** Where is natural gold found? In the \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Rust Resistance:** Unlike iron, gold never rusts or tarnishes. It remains \_\_\_\_\_

2 FOUR GOLD TREASURES: NAME & CLASSIFY

The book asks: *“Name four things that are made of gold.”* Write four items below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

3 PHILOSOPHICAL INQUIRY: USEFUL VS. BEAUTIFUL

The lesson asks: *“Which of them are useful? Which beautiful?”* Sort your items or explain how an object can be both.

- Useful Things:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Beautiful Things:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Both Useful & Fair:  
\_\_\_\_\_

4 IRON VS. GOLD COMPARISON SUMMARY

Compare Lesson 50 (Iron) with Lesson 51 (Gold). In one complete sentence, explain why a blacksmith builds an anvil of iron rather than gold.

- Comparison:  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 PRECIOUS METALS & PHILOSOPHICAL SORTING

**Seri's Pedagogical Aim:** Introduce high-level categorical discrimination: *Utility* (practical function) versus *Aesthetics* (beauty/ornamentation). By comparing Iron (rugged utility) and Gold (noble beauty and currency), students grasp the complementary roles of materials in human culture.

**Standards Addressed:** CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.1 (Domain Details), L.2.5.A (Word Categorization), W.2.1 (Comparing and evaluating attributes).

✓ COMPLETE ANSWER KEY

Section 1: Geology & Color Discovery

1. Color: yellow (or *bright shining yellow / golden*).
2. Geology: *in the earth* (in rocky veins, quartz mines, or river sands).
3. Rust Resistance: *bright, shiny, or untarnished*.

Section 2: Four Gold Treasures: Name & Classify

Accept any four: coins (*money*), watches, rings (*jewelry*), crowns, necklaces, medals, dental crowns.

Section 3: Philosophical Inquiry: Useful vs. Beautiful

- Useful: Gold coins (*for buying goods*), gold watches (*for telling time*), dental gold.
- Beautiful: Rings, necklaces, lockets, and crowns (*worn for beauty and honor*).
- Both: A pocket watch is useful for telling time and beautiful to look upon.

Section 4: Iron vs. Gold Comparison Summary (Sample Response)

An anvil must be made of iron because iron is hard and durable, whereas gold is too soft and precious to hammer on.

! DIAGNOSTIC GUIDE & SOCRATIC DISCUSSION

- **The Paradox of Value:** Ask students: "If you were stranded on an island, which would save your life: a chest of gold coins or an iron axe?" This sharpens the distinction between monetary wealth and practical utility.
- **Softness of Pure Gold:** Explain that pure gold is so soft that jewelers mix it with copper or silver to make rings that hold their shape.

★ SCORING RUBRIC (20 POINTS TOTAL)

| Evaluation Metric     | Exemplary (5 Pts)                                                                                 | Proficient (3-4 Pts)                                                 | Developing (1-2 Pts)                                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Geological Facts      | Accurately identifies gold's color, geological source (earth/rivers), and non-farishing nature.   | Identifies color and source correctly; basic understanding of metal. | Confuses gold origin or color; answers incomplete.       |
| Object Enumeration    | Names four distinct gold objects with correct spelling.                                           | Names 3-4 gold objects accurately.                                   | Names fewer than 3 objects or lists incorrect materials. |
| Philosophical Sorting | Thoughtfully distinguishes between useful and beautiful objects with clear examples.              | Correctly classifies most objects as useful or beautiful.            | Struggles to categorize objects; sorting is confused.    |
| Comparative Synthesis | Writes an insightful comparison sentence explaining why iron is chosen over gold for heavy tools. | Writes a clear comparison between iron and gold.                     | Comparison sentence incomplete or unclear.               |