

Long ago, at the time of the ancient Greeks, a powerful king lived in a place called Phrygia. Phrygia was where the country Turkey is today. The king's name was Midas.

Today, little is known about King Midas by historians. Still, there is one story about Midas that is famous. The story is a myth and it was told by both the ancient Greeks and ancient Romans.

The story is still told today by storytellers around the world. It is a tale of a greedy king whose love of gold became a curse.

King Midas had everything that a ruler might want. His kingdom was large, his palace was beautiful and he owned many great treasures.

The king was loved by his family, especially his beautiful daughter, Marigold. Midas also loved Marigold very much.

But there was one thing Midas loved even more than Marigold and that was gold. Every day, Midas stacked his gold coins in neat towers, counting his gold. Each day, Midas took the towers down, piece by piece. Then he built them back up again.

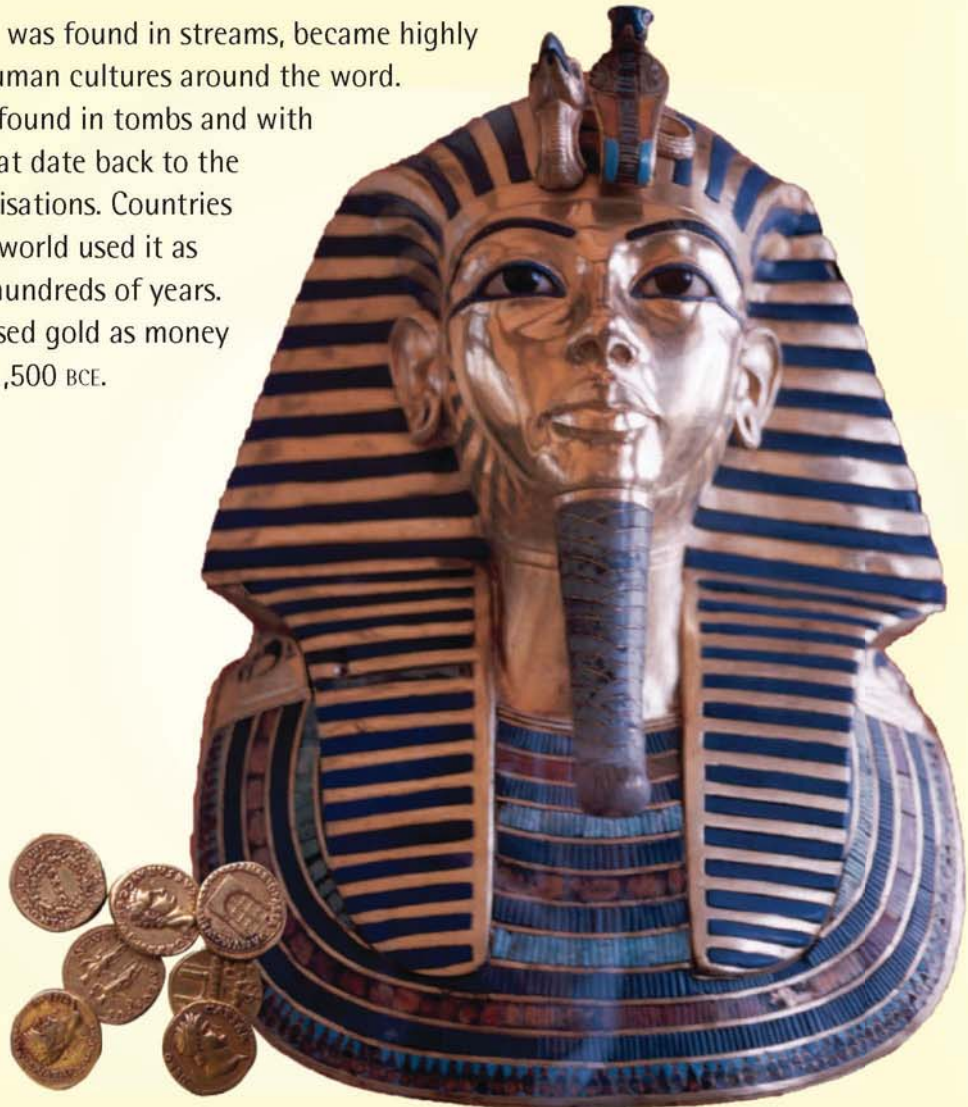


Facts About Gold

What Is Gold?

Gold is a very valuable, shiny metal which is usually yellow in colour. It is one of the first metals people knew and used. It is believed that gold was first used in the Middle East, where the first known civilisations began. The first gold objects date back more than 6,000 years.

Gold, which was found in streams, became highly valued in human cultures around the world. It has been found in tombs and with artefacts that date back to the earliest civilisations. Countries around the world used it as money for hundreds of years. Egyptians used gold as money as early as 1,500 BCE.



Why is Gold so Valuable?

Gold is valuable for a number of reasons. Of course it is beautiful. But gold is also a very easy metal to work with. It is soft and can be melted and shaped without difficulty. Gold doesn't rust. It is also difficult to find and there is not a large amount of it left on Earth.

How is Gold Used Today?

Today, most gold is used to make jewellery. However, because gold is so easy to work with and does not rust like other metals, lots of modern uses for gold have been discovered. Gold is used in lots of electronic devices like mobile phones, computers, printers, photocopiers, televisions and calculators. Gold parts have even been used in cars, in heart surgery and on space shuttles!

