

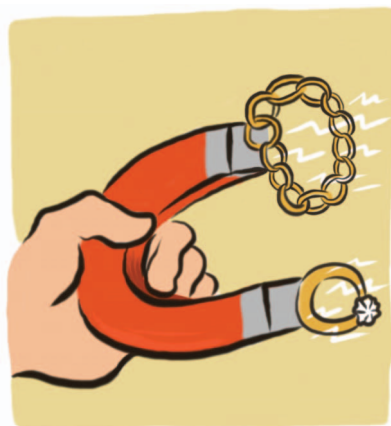


Once they found what they thought was a valuable nugget, many miners were faced with a challenge: is it real gold? Test for yourself! Find a few pieces of "gold" jewelry around your house and put them to the test.



Discoloration. When something that is only gold-colored is touched a lot, the color can wear away. Real gold won't wear. If you wear your jewelry for a while and it leaves green, gray or brown marks on your skin, it's not real.

Bite It! Many people don't know this, but gold is a soft, malleable substance. The softer the gold, the purer it is. Bite down on the object. If your teeth leave impressions, you've got real gold!



How Attractive! Gold isn't a magnetic substance. If you hold a magnet up to your item and it moves or sticks, it's probably fake.*

*Just because it doesn't move doesn't mean it IS gold – it just means it isn't magnetic. Phony gold items can be made out of non-magnetic materials as well, like plastic or wood.



Does It Float? Gold is very dense. If you put it in a small vial of water and sinks fast, it might be gold.



Scratch Test: Find an unglazed ceramic item that you don't mind getting scratched and drag your item along it. If it leaves a black mark, it isn't real. If it leaves a gold mark...it's legit!



Take it to a Jeweler.
He or she will know for sure!