

Context Clues • Good as Gold • 1

To understand the meaning of unfamiliar words as you read, remember:

- An **unfamiliar word** is a word that you don't know the meaning of.
- **Context** refers to the words and sentences around the unfamiliar word.
- **Context clues** are specific clues in the sentences that can help you identify the meaning of the unfamiliar word.

Context Clues Text Marks



Circle the **unfamiliar word**.



Underline **context clues**.



Write the **meaning** of the unfamiliar word on the lines.

Read "A Precious Metal." Use context clues to figure out the meaning of an unfamiliar word and mark the text.

A Precious Metal

Gold is one of Earth's most valuable metals. Why is gold worth so much? First of all, it is one of the most **rare** metals. There is very little gold on Earth. On average, there are only 10 pounds of gold for every 2 billion pounds of dirt. Secondly, gold is very hard to find. Most gold lies hidden deep under the Earth. Miners have to dig it out and process it. To get 1 ounce of gold, it takes 100,000 ounces of ore!

Mark the Text

Use context clues to figure out the meaning of the word *rare*.



Circle the word *rare*.



Underline context clues.



What is the meaning of *rare* in this passage?

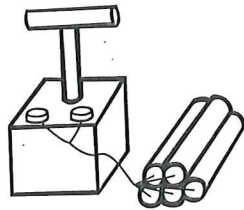
Context Clues • Good as Gold • 2

Read "Hidden Treasure." Use context clues to figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words and mark the text.

Hidden Treasure

1 How do miners get gold out of the ground? They begin by drilling a large shaft into the earth. They put an elevator into the shaft to carry miners up and down. Miners dig out tunnels from the shaft under each **seam** of gold. Then they drill smaller tunnels up into the gold seams. Next, the miners put dynamite in the seams, leave the area, and set off the dynamite. The gold ore falls into trucks set up on rails.

2 The ore is **transported** in the trucks through the tunnels. Then it goes up the shaft to the surface of the mine. The ore is taken away to be processed. Finally, the gold is cast into bars. The bars are sent to special places where they are kept under lock and key!




Mark the Text

1 Use context clues to figure out the meaning of the word *seam*.

Circle the word *seam*.


 Underline context clues.

 What is the meaning of *seam* in this passage?

2 Use context clues to figure out the meaning of the word *transported*.

Circle the word *transported*.

 Underline context clues.

 What is the meaning of *transported* in this passage?

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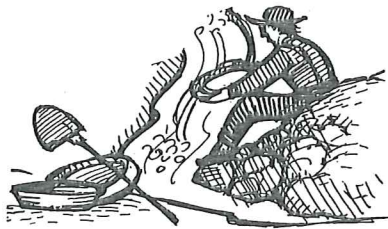
Context Clues • Good as Gold • 3

Read "Panning for Gold." Use context clues to figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words and mark the text.

Panning for Gold

1 Not all gold is hidden under the earth. Gold also lies above ground. When **prospectors** pan for gold, they search at the bottom of riverbeds. They use a shovel to dig up dirt from the bottom of the stream. They use a pan to separate gold from the rocks and dirt.

2 How can you pan for a **nugget** of gold? To find a lump of the shiny metal, first, fill your pan with dirt from the river. Then, hold the pan just under the surface of the water. Shake it from side to side. Next, swirl the pan in circles. Heavier things, like a nugget of gold, sink to the bottom. Lighter things come to the top. Tilt the pan in the water and let the lighter material wash away. Then, check the bottom of your pan. With luck, you'll see a gold nugget shining there.




Mark the Text

1 Use context clues to figure out the meaning of the word *prospectors*.

Circle the word *prospectors*.


 Underline context clues.

 What is the meaning of *prospectors* in this passage?

2 Use context clues to figure out the meaning of the word *nugget*.

Circle the word *nugget*.

 Underline context clues.

 What is the meaning of *nugget* in this passage?
