What does it cost in gold?

Free MNTY calculator · Type a price. Pick a year. See what it cost back then.

See any price in three ways: dollars, one-ounce gold coins, and hours of work. Go back about 100 years. Free for your class. Works on any phone, tablet or classroom screen. No sign-in.

Scan with your phone camera to open it.
mntyedu.com/toolkits/gold

Use it with these books

Read the pages first, then open the calculator for a 5-minute talk. Page numbers are the printed pages in the Teen Edition.

Book 2, The Shrinking Paycheck	**p50**	Money as a ruler for prices. Pick the year a grandparent was born and compare dollars with gold coins.
Book 2, The Shrinking Paycheck	**p54**	Prices jump when things get scarce. Pick Groceries and compare 2019 with today.
Book 1, The Yen Heist	**p33**	Talk about bubbles. When a price climbs fast, ask: did the thing get more useful, or did the price just puff up?
Book 11, The Floor	**p20–22**	Price vs. value. A house does the same job every year. Compare two years and ask why only the dollar price moved.
Book 11, The Floor	**p69**	Type $9, then $40, under Something else. Look at the hours of work each takes, then talk about which one really costs less over time.
Book 11, The Floor	**p76**	Guess the hours of work first, then look at the dollar price. Know the value before you hear the price.
Book 12, The Gold Swindle	**p16, p20**	After the Cheat Sheet on p20, open the details and find today’s price for one ounce of gold. Know what’s inside before you pay.
Book 13, The Crash	**p62**	Pick House and move the year line from 2006 to 2012. Watch the dollar price drop and come back, then talk about storm prices.

Gold here is only a measuring stick. Its own price swings too. Sources are listed inside the calculator. For learning only. This is not investment advice.