

# Digging For Nazi Gold



Alexander Zemlianichenko/AFP/Getty Images

**Deutschneudorf**, Germany—Forget *Indiana Jones*. There's a real-life archaeological adventure going on in Germany. Treasure hunters believe they have located more than 2 tons of precious metals, possibly gold, buried deep underground. Nazi soldiers might have stashed it there at the end of World War II (1939—1945). Under German dictator Adolf Hitler, the Nazis conquered much of Europe. Before they were defeated, they tried to hide the loot that they had stolen from other countries. The treasure hunters, following clues scribbled in an old Nazi notebook, believe they have found some of the stash—maybe even the legendary Amber Room. The Amber Room was a room made entirely of amber and gold. It was part of a Russian palace that was plundered by the Nazis. Pieces of the room resurfaced after the war. Could this be the rest? High-tech scanners indicate something is down there.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What made the treasure hunters think they have found the Amber Room?
  - A Treasure hunters found clues in an old Nazi notebook.
  - B Adolf Hitler had a treasure map in his home.
  - C Russian soldiers saw Nazis bury the treasure.
  - D Scientists found a high level of amber near Germany.
  
2. By reviewing the picture, what word could be used to best *describe* the Amber Room?
  - A ordinary
  - B rich
  - C dark
  - D modern
  
3. The passage starts with the line, "Forget *Indiana Jones*." Using clues from the passage, who could *Indiana Jones* be?
  - A a fictional soldier that fought in World War II
  - B a fictional archaeologist that searched for treasure during World War II
  - C a scientist that tested high tech scanners after World War II
  - D an American spy that fought Russia after World War II
  
4. Read the following sentences and answer the question below: "The Amber Room was a room made entirely of amber and gold. It was part of a Russian palace that was plundered by the Nazis."

In this sentence, what does the word **plundered** mean?

  - A broken
  - B borrowed
  - C stolen
  - D saved
  
5. The primary purpose of this passage is to
  - A describe to the reader the battles of World War II
  - B persuade the reader that the Amber Room is important
  - C inform the reader about a potentially important archaeological find
  - D explain to the reader that archaeologists teach about historical events of World War II

6. What was the Amber Room?

---

---

---

7. How would Nazis be able to get the Amber Room from Russians?

---

---

---

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

There is a real life archaeological adventure in Germany \_\_\_\_\_ treasure hunters believe they have found 2 tons of precious metals.

- A when
- B but
- C because
- D so

9. Answer the questions based on the sentence below.

Nazi soldiers stole treasure from the countries they conquered and buried it deep underground in Germany at the end of World War II.

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

(did) What? stole treasure from the countries they conquered and buried it

When? \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Read the vocabulary word and definition below and complete questions 10a, 10b, and 11.

**Vocabulary Word:** precious (pre · cious): valuable.

10a. Read the five sentences below and underline the word **precious** in each sentence.

1. The diamonds were very precious because they were the perfect color. People would pay a lot of money for those diamonds!
2. After the race car driver nearly died in a crash, he felt every moment was precious because he was lucky to be alive.
3. The twins' relationship was so precious that they wouldn't trade it for all the money in the world.
4. The baby was very precious to her parents, especially because they had to wait so long to have her.
5. In *The Lord of the Rings*, the ring is called precious because it was very valuable to the person that wore it.

10b. If you were stuck on a desert, which image shows something that would be very precious?



11. Would you leave a precious thing of yours on your living room table? Why or why not?

---

---

---

---

## Teacher Guide &amp; Answers

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 830

**Featured Text Structure:** Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic

**Passage Summary:** “Digging for Nazi Gold” describes a treasure hunt for two tons of precious metals hidden underground by Nazis during World War II. The find could be the Amber Room, which was part of a Russian palace.

1. What made the treasure hunters think they had found the Amber Room?

- A **Treasure hunters found clues in an old Nazi notebook.**
- B Adolf Hitler had a treasure map in his home.
- C Russian soldiers saw Nazis bury the treasure.
- D Scientists found a high level of amber near Germany.

2. By reviewing the picture, what word could be used to best *describe* the Amber Room?

- A ordinary
- B **rich**
- C dark
- D modern

3. The passage starts with the line, “Forget *Indiana Jones*.” Using clues from the passage, who could *Indiana Jones* be?

- A a fictional soldier that fought in World War II
- B **a fictional archaeologist that searched for treasure during World War II**
- C a scientist that tested high tech scanners after World War II
- D an American spy that fought Russia after World War II

4. Read the following sentences and answer the question below: “The Amber Room was a room made entirely of amber and gold. It was part of a Russian palace that was plundered by the Nazis.”

In this sentence, what does the word **plundered** mean?

- A broken
- B borrowed
- C **stolen**
- D saved

5. The primary purpose of this passage is to

- A describe to the reader the battles of World War II
- B persuade the reader that the Amber Room is important
- C **inform the reader about a potentially important archaeological find**
- D explain to the reader that archaeologists teach about historical events of World War II

6. What was the Amber Room?

**Suggested answer:** According to the passage, the Amber Room was a room in a Russian palace that was made entirely of amber and gold. [paragraph 1]

7. How would Nazis be able to get the Amber Room from Russians?

**Suggested answer:** Nazis fought against Russia in World War II. Since the passage says that Nazis plundered the Russian palace where the Amber Room was located, it could have been in a part of Russia that was invaded by German Nazis. [paragraph 1]

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

There is a real life archaeological adventure in Germany \_\_\_\_\_ treasure hunters believe they have found 2 tons of precious metals.

- A when
- B but
- C **because**
- D so

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Nazi soldiers stole treasure from the countries they conquered and buried it deep underground in Germany at the end of World War II.

Who? **Nazi soldiers**

(did) What? stole treasure from the countries they conquered and buried it

When? **at the end of World War II**

Where? **deep underground in Germany**

10. ReadWorks recommends that you teach this vocabulary word to the whole class out loud using the four steps listed below.

**Vocabulary Word:** precious

**Step 1:** Introduce the word

- a. Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (pre · cious)
- b. Teacher says: "This word is precious. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "precious."]

**Step 2:** Provide a child-friendly definition

- a. Teacher says: "The word precious means valuable."
- b. Teacher says: "You would say something is precious if it is worth a lot of money. In the passage, treasure hunters believe they found 2 tons of precious metals, possibly gold. They would be very excited because that would be a very valuable find worth a lot of money."
- c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "precious."]

**Step 3:** Practice the word

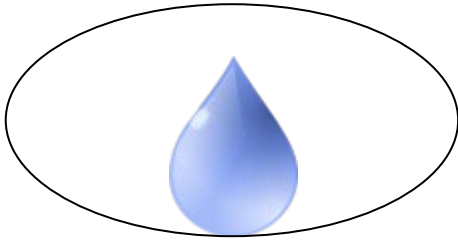
Teacher provides examples and additional opportunities to repeat the word. Read the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence out loud to your students. Begin reading it again and when you come to the vocabulary word prompt students to say the vocabulary word out loud. Then, finish reading the sentence out loud to your students.

- 10a.**
1. The diamonds were very precious because they were the perfect color. People would pay a lot of money for those diamonds!
  2. After the race car driver nearly died in a crash, he felt every moment was precious because he was lucky to be alive.
  3. The twins' relationship was so precious that they wouldn't trade it for all the money in the world.
  4. The baby was very precious to her parents, especially because they had to wait so long to have her.
  5. In *The Lord of the Rings*, the ring is called precious because it was very valuable to the person that wore it.

**Step 4:** Check for student understanding

This step can be completed as a whole class activity or as an independent practice.

- 10b.** If you were stuck on a desert, which image shows something that would be very precious?



- 11.** Would you leave a precious thing of yours on your living room table? Why or why not?

**Suggested answer:** Probably not since I would not want it to get lost or taken.

*Suggested Additional Vocabulary:* conquered, loot, plundered, resurfaced