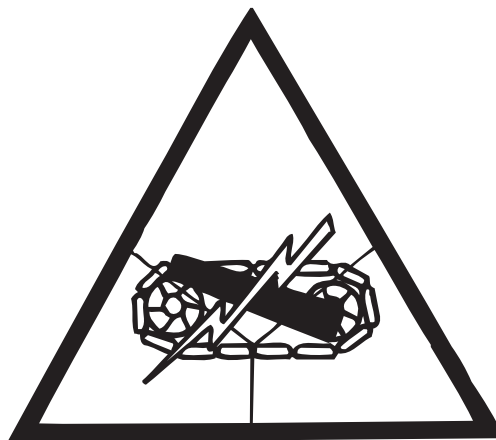


Table of Contents

Fort Knox Bullion Depository	5
Fort Knox Bullion Depository Questions	7
Major General Henry Knox	8
Major General Henry Knox Questions	10
Fort Knox Military Installation	11
Fort Knox Military Installation Questions	13
Fort Knox—Reading a Chart	14
Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor	16
Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor Questions	18
Alexander Hamilton—First Secretary of the Treasury	19
Alexander Hamilton—First Secretary of the Treasury Questions	21
A History of the United States’ Banking System	22
A History of the United States’ Banking System Questions	26
Introduction to the “Cross of Gold” Speech	27
Introduction to the “Cross of Gold” Speech Questions	29
The “Cross of Gold” Speech	30
The “Cross of Gold” Speech Questions	33
Internet Research Ideas	34
Multiple Intelligence Activities	40
Answer Key	43



United States Army Training Center

Fort Knox Bullion Depository¹

The Fort Knox Bullion Depository in Fort Knox, Kentucky, is one of five places where the United States government stores its gold reserves. (Bullion is gold or silver in the form of bars or sometimes coins.) The other four sites are the Philadelphia Mint, the Denver Mint, the West Point Bullion Depository and the San Francisco Assay Office. All of these places are part of the United States Mint and under the supervision of the Director of the Mint. A mint is a place where coins are made. Some coins used to be made of gold or silver mixed with other metals. This is no longer true in the United States, but the gold reserves still belong to the United States Mint.

The Fort Knox Bullion Depository was built in 1936. The government constructed the Depository on land that formerly belonged to the Fort Knox military reservation. The stronghold for the gold bullion cost \$560,000 during the Great Depression. (The cost would be many times that in today's money.) The outside wall of the Depository is made of granite lined with concrete that is reinforced with steel. The finished building is two stories tall and measures 105' x 121' x 42' in height. Construction materials included 16,500 cubic feet of granite, 4200 cubic yards of concrete, 750 tons of reinforcing steel and 670 tons of structural steel. (Structural steel is made into pillars or columns that hold up the building. Reinforcing steel has the concrete poured over it to make the concrete stronger.)

The Bullion Depository at Fort Knox has other means of protecting its precious metals besides the strength of its building materials. The Fort Knox military reservation is one means of protection. There is also a steel fence around the depository. Each corner of the Depository has a manned guard box, and there are two manned sentry boxes at the entry gate. Inside the building are the most modern detection and protection devices. The building is also equipped with its own emergency power generator, water facilities and other services that make it self-sufficient.

The vault inside the granite, concrete and steel building provides yet another layer of protection for the precious metals. The vault is made of steel plates, steel I-beams and steel cylinders covered with concrete. The door to the vault weighs more than 20 tons. Offices and storage areas lie between the vault and the outside walls of the Depository. Therefore, no one could blow up the outside walls of the depository and directly enter the vault. Further security is provided by the fact that no one person knows the entire combination to the vault door: several people have to dial separate combinations that only they know. In addition, the vault cannot be opened except by order of the President of the United States.

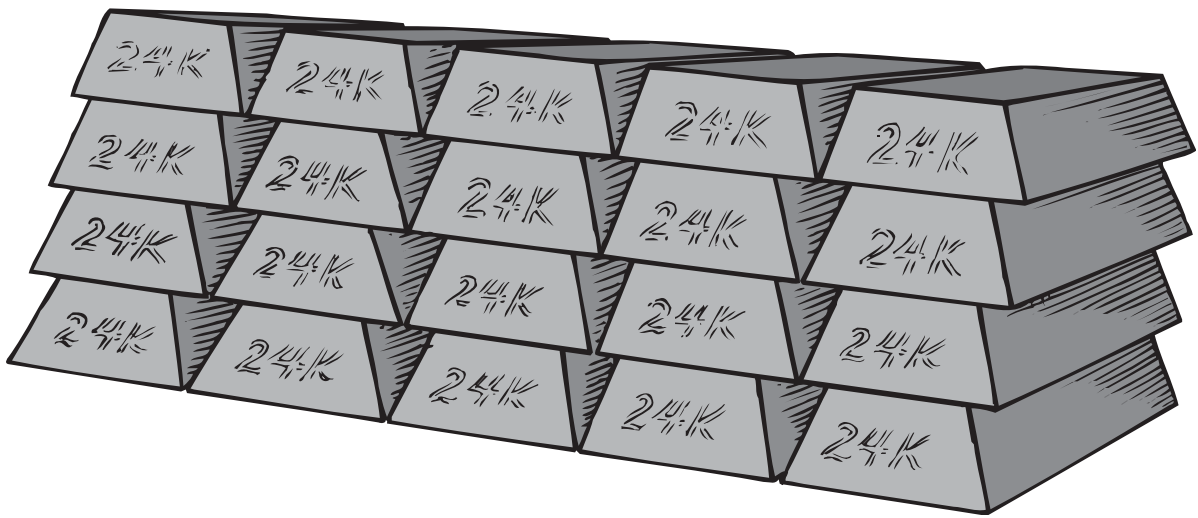


¹“Fact Sheets: Currency and Coins—Fort Knox Bullion Depository” www.ustreas.gov/education/factsheets/currency/fort-knox.html

Fort Knox Bullion Depository

The gold at Fort Knox is stored in the form of bars. These bars are made of almost 100% gold or from gold coins that have been melted down. The bars are about 7" x 3⁵/₈" x 1³/₄" in size—slightly smaller than a brick used in the construction of buildings. Each bar weighs 400 troy ounces. (Troy weight is used specifically to measure gold, silver and precious gems.) Congress has established the price of gold by law in the U.S. at \$42.22 per troy ounce. Therefore, each gold bar is worth \$16,888. Gold bricks are stored in stacks without any wrappings around them. Since gold is such a soft metal, the bricks have to be handled carefully to prevent their being dented when they are moved.

It is too bad that most of us will never get to see the amazing sight of all that gold stacked up in the Fort Knox Bullion Depository. No visitors are ever allowed into the facility.



Name _____

Fort Knox Bullion Depository Questions

1. a. Where are the five gold depositories located in the United States? b. What person supervises the gold depositories? _____

2. What is bullion? _____
3. If the price of gold were set at \$36 per ounce, what would be the value of a bar of gold?

4. Troy weight (by which gold is measured) has 12 ounces to a pound. How much does a bar of gold weigh in pounds? _____
5. What are both the depository and the vault made of that would make it very difficult to steal the gold at Fort Knox? _____
6. What method is used to prevent anyone from learning the combination to the gold vault and stealing the gold that way? _____

7. Thought Question: What are two good reasons for distributing the U.S. gold reserves in five places throughout the United States? _____

8. Historical Research Question: Who was President of the United States when Fort Knox was built?

