What is the history behind the tola measurement?

Weight and Measurement Conversions · https://www.purejewels.com/faqs/weight-and-measurement-conversions/what-is-the-history-behind-the-tola-measurement/

The *tola* is a traditional South Asian unit of weight with deep historical roots, particularly in the context of gold, silver, and precious commodities. Its origins can be traced back centuries and are interwoven with trade, culture, and colonial standardisation.

Origins in Ancient India

The word *tola* (or *tolā*) comes from the Sanskrit word **“tol”**, meaning **“to weigh”**. It was used in ancient India for measuring small quantities of precious metals, spices, and medicines. At that time, it was not rigidly standardised and could vary slightly between regions.

Standardisation Under British India

In **1833**, during the British colonial administration in India, the tola was officially standardised for broader trade purposes. It was fixed at **180 troy grains**, which is equivalent to **11.6638038 grams**. This formalisation allowed for consistency in taxation, bullion trade, and commerce, especially in gold and silver dealings.

This standard became widely accepted not only in India but also in countries influenced by Indian commerce, including **Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and parts of East Africa**.

Tola in Jewellery and Modern Trade

Even after the metric system was introduced, the tola persisted, especially in the **gold jewellery market**. It remains a familiar and trusted measure among gold buyers, particularly within South Asian communities around the world, including here in **East London**, where PureJewels proudly upholds these traditions.

Many families still refer to gold in tolas, especially for bridal sets and heirlooms, because it resonates with cultural memory and emotional value.

A Measure of Heritage

At PureJewels, the tola isn’t just a unit—it’s a **symbol of continuity**, a bridge between generations. Whether you’re converting family gold or investing in a new piece, understanding the history of the tola adds depth to every decision.