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1

In the Name of Beauty



Pre-reading

Think about the following questions.

1. How often do you wear makeup?
2. Do you think makeup is good or bad for the skin? Why?
3. What did people use for makeup long ago?

Vocabulary Preview

Write the letter of the word or phrase with the same meaning as the underlined word.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| a. liquid for coloring | e. beliefs; normal ways |
| b. makes better | f. makeup |
| c. tiny pieces of something solid | g. put on |
| d. very old | h. something that causes illness or death |

1. ___ Lipstick, rouge, and eye shadow are examples of cosmetics.
2. ___ His new hairstyle really improves his looks.
3. ___ Young girls in that country often wear makeup. It's part of that country's culture.
4. ___ Sometimes I put powder on my face. Then it doesn't look oily.
5. ___ Don't touch that powder. It is a poison!
6. ___ Apply the cream carefully to your face, but don't get it in your eyes.
7. ___ Some ancient pictures in the pyramids show women wearing eye makeup.
8. ___ He used dye to make his hair green.

In the Name of Beauty

Cosmetics have been used throughout history. The ancient Greeks, the Egyptians, and the Romans all used various kinds of makeup. Some of these cosmetics were used to improve their appearance. Others were used to protect their skin. But in some cases, things used for makeup were dangerous, or even deadly!

Some of the first skin care treatments started in Egypt. In fact, Cleopatra was known to use them. She thought a bath in milk and honey left her skin silky smooth. Egyptians also developed some of the earliest sunscreens. They used oils and creams for protection against the sun and dry winds. Egyptian and other ancient cultures also used various powders on their skin for beauty. Egyptians used black **kohl** around their eyes. Romans put white **chalk** on their faces. And Indians painted red **henna** on their bodies.

Most of the ancient cosmetic powders, oils, and creams were harmless. But in the name of beauty, some people applied dangerous chemicals and poisons to their skin. During the **Italian Renaissance**, women wore white powder made of **lead** on their faces. Of course, doctors now know lead is like a poison for our bodies.

Also around the time of the Renaissance, women in Italy put **drops** of **belladonna** in their eyes. Belladonna is a very poisonous plant. The poison in the plant affects the **nerves** in the body. By putting belladonna drops in her eyes, a woman's **pupils** would become very large. People thought this made her more beautiful. Actually, this is why the plant is called belladonna. In Italian, belladonna means "beautiful woman."

When Elizabeth I was queen of England in the late 1500s, some rather dangerous cosmetics were also used by women there. Women were using **rouge** made with **mercury**. They were also using special hair dye made with lead and sulphur. The dye was designed to give people red hair, the same color as the queen's hair. Over time, the dye made people's hair fall out. Finally, women using this dye ended up bald, like the queen, and had to wear **wigs**.



¹¹ *kohl*: a powder made of antimony sulfide (Sb_2S_3) used around the eyes

¹¹ *chalk*: a soft white rock made mostly from seashells

¹² *henna*: a red or orange dye made from the henna plant

¹⁵ *Italian Renaissance*: the 1300s through 1500s in Europe, when great artistic and scientific achievements were made

¹⁵ *lead*: a soft metal (Pb)

¹⁷ *drops*: small quantities of a liquid

¹⁷ *belladonna*: a poisonous plant with black berries

¹⁹ *nerves*: parts of the body that pass information to the brain

²⁰ *pupils*: holes in the middle of the eyes that can become smaller or larger

²⁵ *rouge*: a red cosmetic used on the cheeks

²⁵ *mercury*: a poisonous liquid metal (Hg)

³⁰ *wigs*: artificial coverings for the head that look like hair

Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer.

1. What is the main idea of this reading?
 - a. The ancient Egyptians used a lot of makeup.
 - b. People have always used makeup.
 - c. Some cosmetics in the past were dangerous.
 - d. Italian women had the best makeup.
2. Which of the following statements is NOT correct?
 - a. The Egyptians used makeup to help their skin.
 - b. The Romans used chalk to make their faces white.
 - c. Queen Elizabeth I had blond hair.
 - d. Most cosmetics in the past were not dangerous.
3. Where did Italian women apply lead powder?
 - a. In their hair
 - b. On their lips
 - c. To their cheeks
 - d. Under their arms
4. What was belladonna used for?
 - a. To give women pretty eyes
 - b. To change the color of women's skin
 - c. To poison plants
 - d. To make people look smarter
5. What is the meaning of "rather" as it is used in line 24?
 - a. normally
 - b. on the contrary
 - c. preferred
 - d. fairly

Idiomatic Expressions

Find these idioms in the reading.

- **in some cases** [**sometimes**]
In **some cases**, the medicine made people's hair fall out.
- **in the name of** [**for**]
The explorer claimed the island **in the name of** his country.
- **end up** [**to finally become**]
She started her own company and **ended up** a millionaire.

Fill in the blanks. Use each of the above idioms once. Change the form of the words if needed.

1. _____, teachers found students did better on longer exams.
2. Let's follow the map or we may _____ lost.
3. We must keep fighting _____ freedom!

Summary

Fill in the blanks with the correct words.

in the name of
nerves

culture
cosmetics

drops
dangerous

Although people have used 1. _____ all throughout history, not all of them have been safe. In fact, some of them have been quite 2. _____ to people. For example, long ago in Italian 3. _____, people thought women with big eyes were beautiful. Therefore, 4. _____ beauty, women began to put 5. _____ of belladonna in their eyes to make their pupils larger. Today we know belladonna is poisonous, and it can affect the 6. _____ in the body.



Listening

 Makeup for Men?

Listen to the dialog and choose the best answer.

- Which is true about the man?
 - He doesn't usually wear makeup.
 - He works for a cosmetics company.
 - He does not have good skin.
 - He knows a good place to buy makeup.
- According to the woman, why do a lot of men wear skin creams?
 - It makes their skin white.
 - It is fun.
 - It smells nice.
 - It protects their skin.
- What happens at the end of the conversation?
 - The man puts on a cosmetic.
 - The man gets angry.
 - The woman buys the makeup.
 - The man promises to help the woman.

Discussion

Discuss the following questions.

1. Which brands of makeup are good for your skin?
2. What is the strangest beauty treatment you have heard of?
3. What do you wear when you want to look nice?

Writing

Write your own short paragraph by answering the questions below.

Dressing Up

(1) What do you wear to dress up? (2) What are these clothes/things made of? (3) What color are these things? /How do these things look? (4) When was the last time you wore these? (5) Did anyone notice or say anything about how you looked?

Example

I wear a suit and tie to dress up. I don't know what my suit is made of, but my tie is made of silk. My suit is dark blue, and my tie is red and yellow. The last time I wore these was at my sister's wedding. Nobody noticed me because most of the men at the wedding were in suits.

Vocabulary Review

A. Choose the best word to fill in the blank.

1. Creams can make our skin _____.
a. ancient b. large c. cosmetics d. smooth
2. I think it will rain soon. I just felt a _____.
a. drop b. plant c. treatment d. wig
3. If you need perfume, you should go to a store that sells _____.
a. skin b. cosmetics c. history d. prices
4. Joan of Arc tried to lead her army to fight _____ God.
a. ending up b. having to do c. in some cases d. in the name of
5. She sat on the beach all day. Now her _____ is red.
a. appearance b. culture c. pupil d. skin
6. That is not dust on the floor. It is face _____.
a. chalk b. cream c. oil d. powder
7. Be careful. Some of those chemicals are _____.
a. ancient b. dangerous c. silky d. special

B. Choose the correct form of the word to fill in the blank.

8. Be very careful when you _____ makeup around your eyes.
a. application b. apply c. applicable
9. The country is _____ unique. There is no other culture like it.
a. culture b. cultural c. culturally
10. The new and _____ soap seems very similar to the old soap.
a. improvement b. improves c. improved