

Makeup in ancient Egypt



Makeup in Ancient Egypt *Short Case Study*

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When did makeup come into existence?

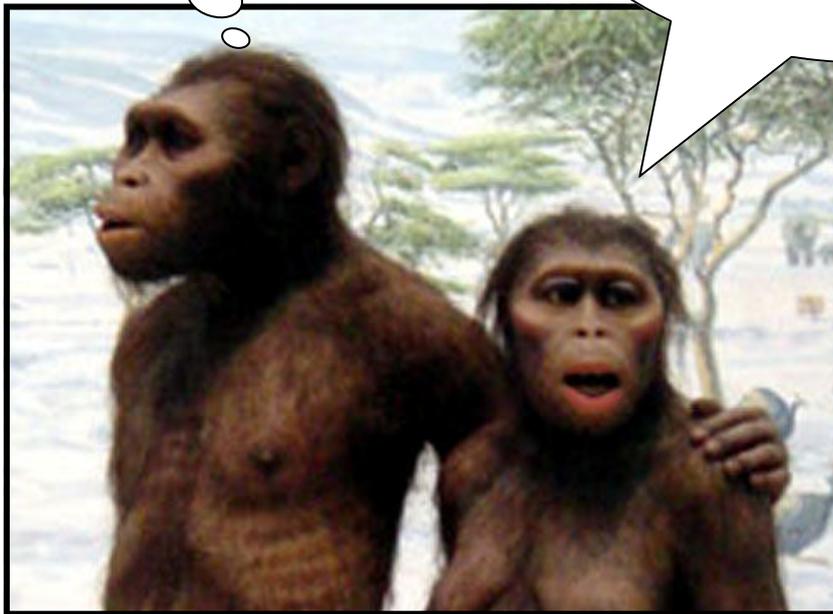
Simple question, yet impossible to answer.

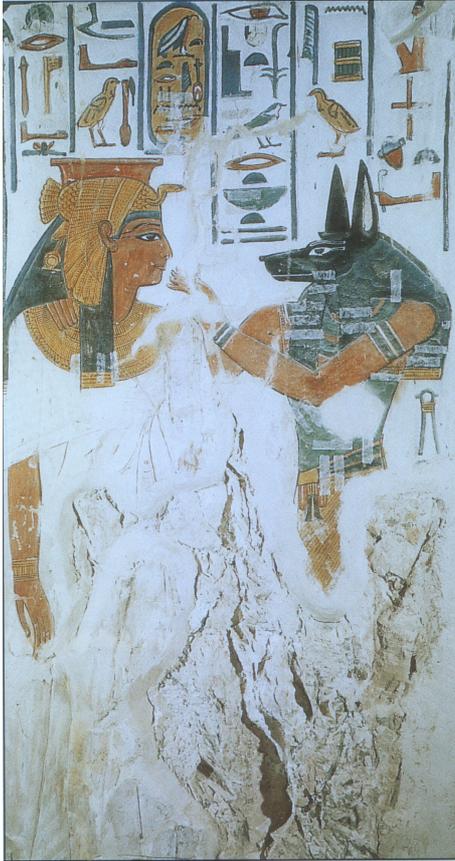
Most likely females have been attracted to coloring their faces since the dawn of time.

When the first homo heidelbergensis (and those before, some 800.000 years ago) began to notice color and began painting them on the walls, which we can still see today all around the world, the females probably saw more use for the paint, than just for the walls.

*Ug.Ug.. I've Got
The Prettiest
one...*

**A girls gotta do
what a girls
gotta do!**





Queen Nefertari

I chose queen Nefertari instead of queen Nefertiti, merely because I think Nefertari had a little more time on her hand to use that extra time on herself.

Whereas I believe Nefertiti had much higher ambitions, and she might have been more natural in her beauty.

The paintings of Nefertari in her tomb, clearly shows her wearing makeup.

Blush and eyeliner (kohl) and lipstick, a lot of hand mirrors and small cosmetic bottle have also been found.

The ancient Egyptian loved anything they thought of as being beautiful.

They are famously known for their distinct eyeliner (kohl) around the eyes, extending beyond the eyelid.

When you look at the paintings of the ladies in the ancient tombs, it is also clear to see that this was not a first timer.

I mean it does not look like new beginner in the area of putting makeup on, so most likely it was a much more ancient tradition.

Most proof of ancient cosmetics (dating before 2000 B.C) is probably from ancient Egypt. Off course other cultures had makeup too, but probably in a much more primitive form, or maybe by trade with Egypt.



This is a picture of Nefertari from her tomb. I found this beautiful picture in The guide book

The Tomb of Nefertari ISBN 88-8029-750-3

<http://www.mysteriesofancientegypt.com/>

Other makeup items found in Egypt

It is very clear to see that the ancient Egyptians were ahead on many points, or maybe we have gone further back... (?)

Kohl Container → was the thing that they used back in those days, some 3000 years ago..

Not only did it enhance the eyes beauty, but it also protecting the eyes from infection.

This Blue Kohl container was found in → Abydos and the container dates to between 1550—1075 BC.

You can now find it in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, in room 34.



← Off course they had to have **mirrors** to see where to place the Kohl.



The mirrors are usually made of Bronze, wood, Silver and Glass. This mirror was found in the area know as Deir al-Bahari.

It dates to between 2135—1994 BC. You can find it in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, in room 34.

These are just few of the cosmetic items which have been found in ancient Egypt.

Ancient Kohl Container from Morocco

Here is another little story from my life.

Some years back, my parents and I went to Morocco to visit my cousins and aunts and uncles—I Miss You !

While we were there, we would walk around Agadir (city in Morocco). One day out walking, I suddenly saw a shop where everything had gone grey a long time ago.

Meaning the shop's window was covered in dust, it looked like it had never been cleaned, so I just had to step inside. Even though I am allergic to old dust (dust that are years old).

The shop owner was a very old man, my father had to be the translator. He showed me hand written Koran's that was many hundred of years old. He was also a very good business man, wanting 2000 for them.

While I was walking around a table with a massive collection of dust, I saw this odd looking object.

The shop owner notice my fixation and quickly took the object and kindly cleaned it, then gave it to me.

He told me that it was a very old Makeup container, while pointing to his eyes.

It is (hopefully) made of an animal bone, such as a Donkey. With pearls and with a little stick, for applying the makeup.



Makeup Object from modern time

Modern tourist Kohl container (eyeliner), which are sold in Egypt, to illustrate how the ancient containers looked.



What is Kohl

Kohl is a very old substance that have been used to enhance the eyes (the black liner around the eyes). The material Galena is grinded into powder form, being a lead mineral, I would think that not everyone today would be able to use it.

Eyeliner was not the only thing they had in ancient Egypt.

They also had various of creams for face and body, many of the recipes that are used today, was born from these ancient ones.

In many ways the elite ancient Egyptians were very vain (like most are today, taking care of their looks and trying to enhance beauty), and indeed they had an eye for beauty.

Even the dancers wore makeup as well as carrying incense in the air, so that the room would be filled with a curtain aroma.

This was just a short intruption to a historical angle to Makeup, Thank you so much for reading this and I hope you enjoyed it.

Karima Lachtane