

“A History of Cosmetics from Ancient Times.” A History of Cosmetics from Ancient Times
| Cosmetics Info, 11 Apr. 2018, www.cosmeticsinfo.org/Ancient-history-cosmetics.

Cosmetics were an important part of life. Cosmetics were used in many ways like in religious rituals, to enhance beauty, and for good health. Egyptian people used cosmetics for hygiene and health. They used oils and creams for protection from the sun and wind and also used oils for religious rituals. Egyptian women would apply a bright green paste made up of minerals to their faces for color and definition. Chinese people stained their fingernails which represented social class. Chinese and Japanese people used rice powder to make their face white, shaved their eyebrows off, paint their teeth black or gold, and applies henna dye to hair and faces. Roman people would use flour and butter on their pimples and dyes their fingernails with sheep fat and blood. Indian people used henna as an art for hair and skin for special occasions. England started the fashion of dyed red hair. Women would also use egg whites to make their face appear white. However, some people thought cosmetics on their skin would threaten their health. Europeans used arsenic in face powder, but only aristocracy used cosmetics. Blonde hair also became popular because it was seen as pure. France started scent making for perfumes. Cosmetics were made of lead and copper, but was later replaced with zinc oxide with less side effects to the skin. Cosmetics was a huge thing, but Queen Victoria thought it was improper and only actors should wear it. The Edwardian Society pressured women to look young. Salons begin to appear, but women would be ashamed to go.

"A woman without paint is like food without salt."- Roman philosopher, Plautus

“Queen Victoria publicly declares makeup improper. It is viewed as vulgar and acceptable only for use by actors.”

The author wanted to express the history of cosmetics by listing the different cultures and how people used them. I think the article is important because it is the history of cosmetics and how it evolved. Cosmetics were used as art and skin care. I think it is amazing how people today still use cosmetics as they did so long ago. Henna dye is still used as a temporary art form on the body. The cosmetic industry today is so large and people are paid for their skills of makeup and hair dying. Cosmetics are still an important part of today's society.