

Beauty around the World Facts



Read out the facts in blue. Once the game is over, or as you go along, tell the group the information under each fact!

Somewhere in the world...

...it is considered that big women are beautiful.

In Mauritania in Africa, it's desirable for women to be as big as possible. Unfortunately sometimes girls are even force-fed to make them more attractive.

...people think it's beautiful to have a very long neck, and women make their necks longer with metal rings.

There are communities in Thailand and Myanmar where women and girls stretch their necks to be considered beautiful and show they belong to their community.

... very high hairlines and big foreheads were thought very attractive – and people would pluck their hairline to make it higher.

In 16th century England, the ideal beauty was the Queen, and she shaved her hairline to create a big forehead. Whatever she did, her people wanted to copy.

...people with tanned skin are considered more beautiful, so women and men will sit under big lamps, spray paint their bodies or rub lotion into their skin to tan it.

In countries like Australia, the UK and the USA, many people want to look like they have been in the sun and have tanned skin, so they tan themselves with lotion or sunbeds or spend a long time in the sun. This can be dangerous and bad for your skin.

...people feel it's more beautiful to have a lighter skin tone, and women and men will rub lotion into their skin to whiten it and avoid going in the sun.

In many places in Asia, such as India, China and Pakistan, lighter skin is often considered more attractive. Some people believe they will be more successful with whiter skin.

...tall is beautiful, and some people have surgery to make their legs made longer.

In some parts of Asia, such as South Korea, people have increased their height by having leg-lengthening surgery.

...people say a beautiful woman has a very curvy figure.

In Brazil, curvy women are the most admired – although this is starting to change because of the influence of other countries; people in Brazil are starting to see being thin as beautiful.

... people have thought it beautiful for women to have very tiny feet, and girls had their feet bandaged to stop them growing.

In China, foot binding was very popular until the early 20th century. The way it made women walk was seen as attractive.

...a uni-brow – where both eyebrows join in the middle – is seen as beautiful in women

In Tajikistan, women feel very lucky if their eyebrows grow across their foreheads. If they don't, they use a herbal mixture to draw a line and join their eyebrows together.

...having a plump curvy bottom is the most beautiful way to be.

In Jamaica, dancing is very important. Women with bigger bottoms can wiggle them a lot when they're dancing, which people find beautiful.

... dyed black teeth were thought to be very beautiful in women.

This teeth-dying practice is called Ohaguro, and was popular with married women, and sometimes men, in Japan until the 1900s. It followed an ancient tradition that black things were seen as beautiful. The dye actually protected their teeth from decay!