



# GREAT INVENTIONS

## THE LIPSTICK



Today, everyone can use lipstick: girls on TV, young people in the park, moms at work, sisters in shopping centers. It is a cosmetic item they all use, but did you know that thousands of years ago, it was a luxury item that only a few could use?



The lip bar or lipstick began to be used more than four thousand years ago in ancient Mesopotamia, an area of the Middle East located between the Tigris River and the Euphrates River, which includes several areas between Iraq, Turkey, and Syria today.

People made lipstick by crushing expensive pigments and minerals to color their lips and eyes. They used them mostly to demonstrate power, superiority, and to decorate their faces as a symbol of beauty.



In ancient Egypt, different dyes and pigments were crushed to create different colored lipsticks. Despite the advances of the time, some of the substances used were toxic. For example, bromine was used and caused some serious diseases.

Some of the pigments used were obtained from different insects. They used cochineals or kinds of beetles to get the red or carmine color. They caught the insects, dried them, crushed them, and created a powder to use as a dye and then mixed it with other ingredients to give lipstick a bright color. Oils from animals and vegetables along with waxes and scales from different fish were used to create that bright, pearly tone.

The use of lipstick has gone through many stages throughout its history. It has enjoyed stages of acceptance where it was considered fashionable, and women wore it. Then, there were times when it was considered demonic, like in Medieval Europe.

From the 16th century, during the reign of Isabella I, it was considered a symbol of beauty. Women would have pale or whitish colored makeup on their faces and bright red lips. Painted lips were sometimes considered a social status since not everyone could afford to buy it.



But as we know, times change, and 200 years later, women who used lipstick were condemned for witchcraft. Therefore, makeup was strictly prohibited.



During the reign of Queen Victoria in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, makeup was used by women with low reputations, and so was considered vulgar. However, in other countries, such as the United States, it was a show of liberation for women to demonstrate their power and emancipation.



**THE SATURDAY  
EVENING POST**



Beginning  
Merton of the Movies—By Harry Leon Wilson





Gradually, the practice of painting lips red gained more and more popularity. Famous movie actresses began using lipstick to beautify their faces.

Currently, we can find lipsticks in different formats, such as bar, pencil, or gloss, and with different finishes, such as matt, gloss, or water resistant.

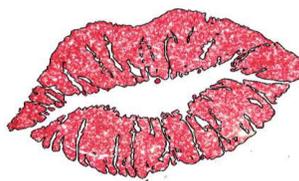


The colors have also changed throughout time, going from red and pink colors to oranges, brown, even purple, blue, green, and black.

For some years now, it has been seen as a fashion trend to have the color of the nails and lip match. Prices have also changed so anyone can afford to buy it.



All these changes in such a tiny product! Can you imagine what changes are yet to come in the future of lipstick?



Name \_\_\_\_\_



## THE LIPSTICK



Answer the questions.

1. What does the word **power** mean in the text?

- a. Hungry
- b. Courage
- c. Dream
- d. Poverty

2. The word lipstick is a compound word. What two words form it?

- a. Paint + laps
- b. Make up + lips
- c. Painter + lips
- d. Paint + lips



3. Why has the use of lipstick changed so much?

- a. Because before there were not as many colors as now.
- b. Because before they put on makeup more than now.
- c. Because it doesn't take that lipstick anymore.
- d. Because times change and most women use it.



4. Why do you think people use lipstick?

- a. Women have to accept themselves as they are.
- b. It is a symbol of beauty for women.
- c. Lipstick is hard to find.
- d. The color red is pretty.

5. What part of the text does it talk about the different types of lipstick?

- a. In the beginning

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## THE LIPSTICK



6. What harmful toxic element did lipstick have in the past?

- a. Chrome
- b. The brave
- c. Bromine
- d. The gloss



7. After reading the story, it can be deduced that \_\_\_\_\_

- a. In the 16th century only the richest classes could afford it.
- b. The use of lipstick is basically for the most needy.
- c. There are many types of lipstick but some are ugly.
- d. Famous movie actresses use red lipstick.



8. In Ancient Egypt, different dyes and pigments were crushed to make black lipstick.

- a. True
- b. False

9. Which queen considered the use of lipstick to be a symbol of beauty?

- a. Isabel XVI
- b. Isabel I
- c. Queen Victoria
- d. Isabel Victoria of England



10. What is the relationship between lipstick and fashion?

- a. They are beautiful but it is a luxury item.
- b. Both serve to make witchcraft.
- c. Both are cosmetic items.
- d. None of the answers are correct.