



GREAT INVENTIONS

THE WIG



Hair covers almost the entire surface of our body. Some areas of the body have a higher concentration of hair than others.

There are approximately a million hairs on the body and about 150,000 hairs on the head. The hair on the head is necessary for human beings because it keeps the heat in and protects the skull from bumps and burns.



Most people have hair on their heads, but for various reasons, such as certain diseases, some people do not. They will usually wear wigs. But has it always been like that? Keep reading carefully.



Wigs are false hair made with natural human hair or synthetic hair. Wigs were being made and worn by the nobility and the wealthiest classes in the time of the early Egyptians. From archaeological remains found, we know that the longer the hair on the wig, the more prestige and money the person had. Traces have been found of Egyptian wigs and are exhibited in different museums around the world.

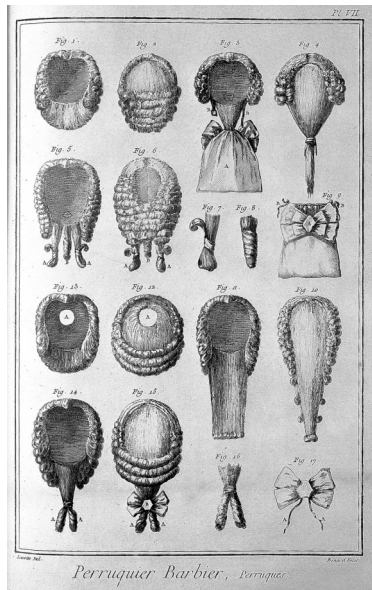
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Wigs have been used in other civilizations also, especially in the world of performing arts. In ancient Japan, they used wigs to perform different scenes in traditional Japanese theater. Also, their famous geisha used them in their daily life.

During the classical era in Greece and Rome, theater actors also used very elaborate wigs. At the time of the Roman Empire and after

its fall, the use of wigs was decaying. Practically no one wore them until the 16th century.



In the 16th century, the upper classes of society started wearing wigs again. They also began to be used in Europe. In countries like England or France, the nobles and powerful used them to show their status to the rest of their colleagues, especially in the parties that they held at their palaces.



The wigs were useful to improve hygiene, avoid diseases, and eliminate lice. These wigs were very elaborate, designed by the best artisans in the city, and fit the fashion designs of the time. The hairdressers of the 17th century were experts in the field and enjoyed prestige in society.





A century later, in the 18th century, the wigs were white and pompous. They were large, overfilled, and heavy. They were great ornaments, and it took a real effort to wear them. The whitish color of the wig was fashionable at that time, and anyone who could afford it wore it with pride.



Between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the custom of wearing wigs was declining in Europe, so they were only used by people who no longer had hair. At that time, it was no longer a symbol of wealth and power.

At present, wigs are usually manufactured industrially, although there are still artisans who make wigs by hand. The price is usually high and varies depending on whether it is made of synthetic or natural hair and the length of hair. They can be dyed in assorted colors and patterns according to the customer's taste. A wig taken care of daily lasts longer.



There are associations around the world where one can donate their hair so that wigs can be made for people who suffer from diseases like cancer. Once you donate hair, they are responsible for making the wig for the person who needs it. Isn't that a beautiful initiative to help these people?





THE WIG

Answer the questions.



1. What does the word prestige mean in the text?
 - a. poverty
 - b. good fame
 - c. hot
 - d. dream
2. What is the synonym for wig?
 - a. fake
 - b. plate
 - c. hairdresser
 - d. wealth
3. Why did some people wear wigs in history?
 - a. They had lice.
 - b. They had a lot of money and didn't know what to do with it.
 - c. They wanted to use it to demonstrate their power and wealth.
 - d. They didn't like their hair color.
4. Why do you think if they wore wigs, they had more power or wealth?
 - a. Not everyone could afford to wear wigs.
 - b. The wigs were very cheap, and they could afford them.
 - c. The color of the wig showed whether they were poor or rich.
 - d. If they had hair, they had lice and diseases and took them off.
5. What part of the text explains the manufacture of wigs?
 - a. the beginning
 - b. the middle
 - c. the end
 - d. doesn't say



THE WIG



6. What is the main idea of the text?
- the evolution and uses of the wig over time
 - the many types of wigs and their colors
 - diseases and the use of the wig
 - the cost of the wig and its use throughout history
7. After reading the story, it can be deduced that _____
- The wig has been changing its uses throughout history.
 - If you have a lot of money, you can buy a wig.
 - In ancient times, they wore more wigs than now.
 - Wigs made of human hair, last longer than those made of synthetic hair.
8. What uses can a wig have?
- Cover your head if you lose your hair due to a disease.
 - Cover your head if you lose your hair as you get older.
 - Cover your head in case you lose your hair due to cancer.
 - All the answers are correct.
9. Around the world, there are associations that are responsible for making wigs for rich people who can't afford wigs in case of cancer.
- True
 - False
10. Why do you think people don't wear wigs today to show their wealth and power?
- That fashion is no longer worn.
 - There are no more artisans who make wigs in a way handmade.
 - It is fashionable to shave your head.
 - There aren't any bald people in the world.