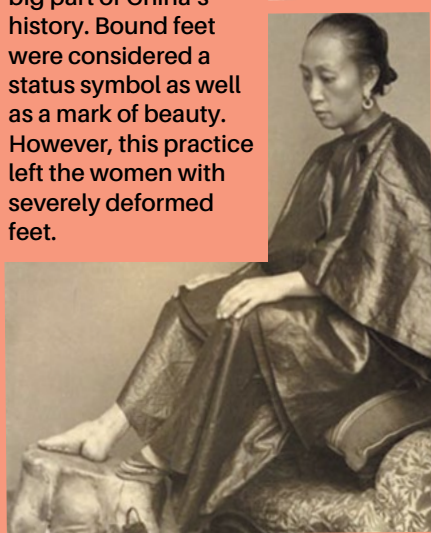




Peter van der Sluijs via Wikimedia Commons

Wives of the Karen tribe in Thailand wear many rings around their necks

Foot binding was a big part of China's history. Bound feet were considered a status symbol as well as a mark of beauty. However, this practice left the women with severely deformed feet.



THE PRICE OF Perfection

By Asha Bogenfurst

People have always had strange ideas of what it means to be beautiful and fashionable. Some think having long ears is beautiful while others think eyeballs would look much better if they were tattooed! In fact, eyeball tattooing started 2000 years ago and people are still doing it today even though there is a danger of going blind. Some people want to be beautiful and fashionable that they are willing to do dangerous things to get a kind of beauty look.



Alfred Weidinger via Wikimedia Commons

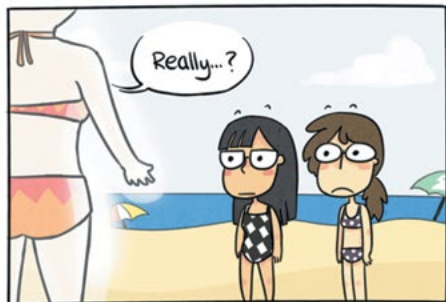
Depending on their size, Lip Plates displayed the wearers social or economical importance in some African tribes.



During the 18th century in Europe, women used dangerous things such as lead, arsenic and radium to make their skin white. Although these **chemicals** are known to be bad for our health today, a long time ago people believed that these chemicals had magical powers. However, they soon found out that these very toxic things have many negative side-effects like the skin becoming black, scars on the skin, lose hair and illness which could make some people die.



Women during the Victorian age would also sometimes use a horrible method called "bloodletting" which means you make yourself let out blood. If you did, you would turn pale. Having pale skin was **coveted** because people thought only rich people and the upper class had pale. It was thought to be more liked and so more beautiful. Labourers and farmers who worked under the sun all day had tanned skin and were thought to be lower class people.



ThePigeonGazette.tumblr.com

Credit: thepigeongazette.tumblr.com

In modern Europe, the old beauty idea of having pale skin is no longer trendy. It is more fashionable to have tanned skin. You can get tanned skin if you spend many hours **leisurely** sitting under the hot sun. Today, a suntan is thought of as being part of the rich class - people think it is beautiful and they want it. However, in Asia, people's love for fair skin is still **pervasive**. Beauty products to make skin white are very popular in Asia, while in Europe tanning products are more popular.



Perfect fair skin may not sound like a strange trend because it is advertised to us so much. The beauty **treatments** are very strange. One of the modern treatments popular in Japan uses a face cream using bird poop! Popular celebrities like Kim Kardashian likes strange beauty treatments such as 'vampire facials', in which blood is taken from your arm and put into your face. The increased blood flow to your face is said to **rejuvenate** the skin. Beauty treatments can be scary.

LEVEL: A2 GLOSSARY:

coveted (verb) – wanting to own something badly

leisurely (adjective) – done in a relaxed, unhurried manner

pervasive (adjective) – spreading widely throughout an area or group of people

rejuvenate (verb) – make someone or something look younger

inlay (noun) – a piece of material laid in or within something

