FASHION AND BEAUTY WORKBOOK

E17480, on display in The Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery
Royal Fashion: Who Wore It Better?

Royalty in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia were shown wearing intricate outfits made from luxury materials. Accessories like crowns and swords and symbols of plants and animals made royals look majestic and powerful to the people. Using your observation skills, take a close look at these ancient royal depictions. How do they stack up?

What are some similarities between the two images?

What are some differences between the two images?

What might you be able to tell about ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia by looking at these images? What do you still wonder?
Ancient Beauty Scavenger Hunt

Fashion and beauty were serious topics in the ancient world, and ancient people left behind evidence of their grooming habits, makeup, and clothing. Use this scavenger hunt to explore some fashion- and beauty-related artifacts from the OI. Some of them may look pretty familiar!

How to search for objects:
1. Go to oi-idb.uchicago.edu.
2. Type or copy and paste the registration number for the object (Example: A13856).
3. Check the box “Images Only.”
4. Press Submit.

Kohl was an important makeup used by people throughout the Middle East, and was often thought to have magical properties. What was found inside of this kohl container? **E9913**

Minerals were often ground on palettes to make makeup. What ancient-ground mineral remains on this palette? **E23673B**

What type of stone is this cosmetic container made from? **A12408**

What tools are found on the ring of this grooming kit? **E16715**
Combs today don’t look much different from this wooden comb from ancient Egypt. Was this comb ever used, and how can we tell? E9422

Like us, ancient people were fond of beautiful, rare materials. What types of beads is this necklace made from? A21505D

The design of sandals also hasn’t changed all that much since ancient times! What region of Egypt does this woven sandal come from? E7189

Most ancient people would only ever see their reflections in water—but if you were wealthy enough, you might be able to afford a mirror made of polished metal. What metal is this mirror made from? E16874A
People in the Nile Valley (which included ancient Egypt and Nubia) wore eyeliner made from ground minerals, which was generically called kohl. Containers for kohl, like this example, were often highly decorated. This tube is carved to look like a round pavillion with palm frond- and floral-topped columns and arches. This kohl tube was found with a metal cosmetic stick (different from the one pictured) in the tomb of a man.