

## Blue most common eye colour in Britain

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CREATIVE COMMONS  
VIA MICHAEL DAVES ON FLICKR.COM

Scientists have made a map of the eye colour of people in Britain. They found out that the most common colour is blue. The scientists say that thousands of years ago, all British people's eyes were brown. The researchers found that 48 per cent of British people have blue eyes, 30 per cent of people have green eyes and 22 per cent have brown. The area around Edinburgh in Scotland was the place where most people had blue eyes. Over half (57 per cent) of those in and around Edinburgh have blue eyes. The southwest of England has the fewest blue-eyed people. Just 35 per cent of people living there are blue eyed. The scientists say they do not know why some regions of Britain have a lot of blue-eyed people.

Alistair Moffat, the lead researcher of the study, said the number of people with blue eyes is increasing because people find them more attractive. This means people with blue eyes are more successful at finding a partner and having children with blue eyes. He compares blue eyes to the tail of a peacock, saying a more colourful tail will get a peacock more mates. Dr Moffat says people are attracted to the sparkle in blue eyes. He said light reacts with blue eyes to give a glitter effect. Darker eyes absorb light so they generally have less sparkle. Another scientist, Hans Eiberg, offers an explanation why blue eyes are popular. He said: "There is something attractive about blue eyes, maybe because they used to be so rare."

Sources: *Daily Mail / IB Times / Herald Scotland*

## Writing

Eye colour is more important than hair colour. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*scientists / eye colour / common / researchers / brown eyes / fewest / regions / increasing / successful / finding a partner / peacock / colourful / sparkle / attractive*

## True / False

- Scientists mapped the colour of people's eyes in Britain. T / F
- Thousands of years ago, all British people's eyes were brown. T / F
- London has the highest percentage of blue-eyed people in Britain. T / F
- Scientists know why different areas of Britain have blue-eyed people. T / F
- The number of blue-eyed British people is falling. T / F
- A scientist said blue-eyed people find partners more easily. T / F
- The scientist said people like the way light reacts in brown eyes. T / F
- A scientist said blue eyes are popular because they used to be rare. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. common     | a. region       |
| 2. found      | b. well liked   |
| 3. area       | c. location     |
| 4. place      | d. going up     |
| 5. a lot of   | e. discovered   |
| 6. study      | f. good-looking |
| 7. increasing | g. widespread   |
| 8. attractive | h. soak up      |
| 9. absorb     | i. research     |
| 10. popular   | j. many         |

## Discussion – Student A

- Are blue eyes like a peacock's tail?
- What do you think is more important, eye colour or hair colour?
- What do you think about when you look at your eyes in a mirror?
- Are blue eyes more attractive than other colours?
- Would blue eyes look strange with some people?
- Are blue-eyed people more successful?
- What colour eyes do you want your children to have?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

## Phrase Match

- |                                |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Scientists have made        | a. colour is blue       |
| 2. the most common             | b. sparkle in blue eyes |
| 3. those in and                | c. of the study         |
| 4. the fewest                  | d. a map                |
| 5. some regions of             | e. to be so rare        |
| 6. lead researcher             | f. around Edinburgh     |
| 7. people find                 | g. light                |
| 8. people are attracted to the | h. Britain have a lot   |
| 9. Darker eyes absorb          | i. them more attractive |
| 10. they used                  | j. blue-eyed people     |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about blue eyes?
- What do you think of your eye colour?
- Does eye colour change our personality?
- Why do people want to change their eye colour?
- People will change their eye colour every day in the future. Is this good or bad?
- Why doesn't everyone have the same colour eyes?
- What would you think if we could choose any eye colour?
- Why do you think eye colour is so different in Britain?

## Spelling

- the most onocmm colour
- hnotusad of years ago
- erarchesser found that...
- Scotland was the caelp where...
- England has the tewesf
- some soeinrg of Britain have a lot
- people find them more titaeravct
- He oamrspce blue eyes to...
- Darker eyes basrbo light
- they generally have less ekpalrs
- Hans Eiberg offers an xopannielat
- blue eyes are luarpop

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. a	4. c	5. j
6. i	7. d	8. f	9. h	10. b

## Role Play

### Role A – Blue

You think blue is the best eye colour. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why their eye colour isn't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): brown, green or grey/gray.

### Role B – Brown

You think brown is the best eye colour. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why their eye colour isn't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): blue, green or grey/gray.

### Role C – Green

You think green is the best eye colour. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why their eye colour isn't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): brown, blue or grey/gray.

### Role D – Grey (UK) Gray (USA)

You think grey/gray is the best eye colour. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why their eye colour isn't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): brown, green or blue.

## Speaking – Colour

Rank these with your partner. Put the things you would like to change the colour of most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| • eyes        | • hair        |
| • fingernails | • lips        |
| • teeth       | • cheeks      |
| • skin        | • other _____ |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.