

## Study says eyelashes keep eyes from drying

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Scientists have come up with answers to the age-old question of why eyelashes are the length they are. Researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology

conducted a variety of tests on the lashes of 22 different mammals. One was to create a special wind tunnel and an artificial eye to provide mathematical models of how the wind blew over lashes. The conclusion of head researcher David Hu is that the function of eyelashes is to help protect the eyes from drying out and that the optimal eyelash length for this to happen is one-third as long as the eye is wide. Professor Hu found that across a wide variety of mammals, the ratio of eyelash length and eye width was consistently one-third.

Dr Hu started his investigation after the birth of his newborn daughter. He wondered why his baby kept on batting her eyelids. He told the International Business Times that: "Eyelashes that rim the eyes in mammals have been a mystery for a long time as to what their function was. There were a lot of hypotheses, from dust catchers to triggering the blink reflex....What we did was the first aerodynamic study of eyelashes. We showed using three independent means that eyelashes reduce evaporation of the eye by 70 per cent, and they reduce [the deposits] of small airborne particles." A colleague said Hu had a talent for, "looking at what everybody has looked at, and seeing what nobody has seen."

Sources: *NY Times* / *IB Times* / *Yahoo*

## Writing

Eyelashes are more beautiful than eyebrows. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*scientists / answers / variety / tests / wind tunnel / mathematical models / eye width / newborn daughter / eyelids / mystery / hypotheses / blink / evaporation / colleague*

## True / False

- Scientists found an answer to a question about eyelashes and age. T / F
- Scientists looked at the eyelashes of over 20 mammals. T / F
- Scientists used a wind tunnel to see how aerodynamic eyelashes are. T / F
- Eyelashes are usually one-third of an eye's width in most mammals. T / F
- A scientist embarked on this study after looking at his daughter's eyes. T / F
- There were very few thoughts on what the function of eyelashes was. T / F
- The research used one independent means to support it. T / F
- The researcher has a talent for seeing what everyone has seen. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. come up with  | a. role      |
| 2. variety       | b. imitation |
| 3. artificial    | c. enquiry   |
| 4. function      | d. broad     |
| 5. wide          | e. decrease  |
| 6. investigation | f. found     |
| 7. mystery       | g. theories  |
| 8. hypotheses    | h. flair     |
| 9. reduce        | i. range     |
| 10. talent       | j. puzzle    |

## Discussion – Student A

- What did you think eyelashes were for?
- What would life be like without eyelashes?
- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of your eyelashes?
- Why do people think longer eyelashes are more attractive?
- What do you do when you get an eyelash in your eye?
- What do you think of eyelashes on animals?
- How interesting would it be to do this research?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Scientists have come up with answers to | a. of tests on the lashes   |
| 2. why eyelashes are the                   | b. nobody has seen          |
| 3. conducted a variety                     | c. evaporation of the eye   |
| 4. protect the eyes                        | d. length they are          |
| 5. across a wide                           | e. small airborne particles |
| 6. triggering the blink                    | f. from drying out          |
| 7. the first aerodynamic                   | g. reflex                   |
| 8. eyelashes reduce                        | h. the age-old question     |
| 9. reduce the deposits of                  | i. study of eyelashes       |
| 10. seeing what                            | j. variety of mammals       |

## Discussion – Student B

- When and why do you bat your eyelashes?
- Why do we blink?
- How would people do an aerodynamic study of eyelashes?
- People say camel's eyelashes are very beautiful. What do you think?
- How can we look after our eyelashes?
- Which are more important, eyelashes or eyebrows?
- What do you have a talent for nobody else has?
- What questions would you like to ask David Hu?

## Spelling

- answers to the gae-dlo question
- an acilftirai eye
- The ocunonicls of head researcher David Hu
- the oalitmp eyelash length
- a wide variety of lasammm
- eye width was esnctysnoitl one-third
- Hu started his tviinotineasg
- a yyrestm for a long time
- There were a lot of shyehsopte
- the first cdyioamraen study of eyelashes
- reduce peiaovontra
- small airborne tsrilpeca

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Eyelashes

You think eyelashes are the most beautiful part of the face. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so beautiful. Also, tell the others which is the least beautiful of these (and why): eyebrows, the nose or the mouth.

### Role B – Eyebrows

You think eyebrows are the most beautiful part of the face. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so beautiful. Also, tell the others which is the least beautiful of these (and why): eyelashes, the nose or the mouth.

### Role C – Nose

You think the nose is the most beautiful part of the face. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so beautiful. Also, tell the others which is the least beautiful of these (and why): eyebrows, eyelashes or the mouth.

### Role D – Mouth

You think the mouth is the most beautiful part of the face. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so beautiful. Also, tell the others which is the least beautiful of these (and why): eyebrows, the nose or eyelashes.

## Speaking – Hair

Rank these with your partner. Put the most useful hair at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| • eyelashes | • eyebrows          |
| • upper lip | • hair on legs      |
| • underarm  | • hair on your head |
| • beard     | • chest hair        |

### Answers – True False

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