



Mystery Object – Egypt 5 – Wig Fragment



What is it made from?

This is part of a wig that was made from human hair. Ancient Egyptian wigs were made from human hair, sheep wool, and vegetable fibres. The most expensive would have been made just from hair and the cheapest ones just from vegetable/plant fibres.

The basic wig would be styled into braids and curls that were kept in place using wax and resin. This wax would keep the style in place for a large number of outings even in the heat of the Egyptian sun.

Who would have used it?

Wigs were worn as a symbol of status. Both men and women wore them. They could be full wigs that covered the hair or extensions attached to your hair.

What are modern day versions made from?

You can buy wigs made from lots of different materials now. You can still get wigs made from human hair but they are also made from animal hair and synthetic (non-natural) materials such as acrylic, nylon and polyester.



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Interesting facts

Most wigs were coloured deep black but there were also brown and blond wigs.

Children didn't wear wigs. The most common hairstyle was the side-lock where children had a shaved head with a braid on one side. Some girls braided their hair or wore pigtails while some boys had shaved heads.