



**At the end of the lesson, the student will be able to:**

- \*define the essence of beauty.
- \*distinguish the various definition of beauty as regards to culture and time.



### Read the Article:

Looking good is a universal human **obsession**. How do we **perceive** physical beauty and why do we place so much stock in it?

When it comes to choosing a mate, a female penguin knows better than to fall for the first creep who pulls up and honks. She holds out for the **fittest suitor** available –which in **Antarctica** means one chubby enough to spend several weeks sitting on newly **hatched** eggs without starving to death.

Is our corner of the animal world different? That looks count in human affairs is **beyond dispute**. Studies have shown that people considered attractive fare better with parents and teachers, make more friends and money. In some places, people **bedeck** themselves with scars, lip plugs or bright feathers.

“Every culture is a ‘beauty culture’,” says Nancy Etcoff, a **neuroscientist** who is studying human attraction at the MIT Media Lab and writing a book on the subject. “I defy anyone to point to a society, any time in history or any place in the world, that wasn’t **preoccupied** with beauty.”

It’s widely assumed that ideals of beauty from **era to era** and from culture to culture. But a harvest of new research is **confounding** that idea. Studies have established that people everywhere (regardless of race, class or age) share a sense of what’s attractive. And though no one knows just how our minds translate the sight of a face or a body into **rapture**, new studies suggest that we judge each other by rules we’re not aware of.



### Let's Talk:

1. In what ways have studies shown that appearance matters?
2. What society is known as the exception to the “beauty culture” rule?
3. Is physical beauty a determinant of species survival?



### Express Yourself:

1. Do you think beauty is just superficial, or it is a personal asset people admire?
2. Would you go ahead with cosmetic surgery to become more beautiful?
3. If your child were ugly and wanted to have cosmetic surgery, what would you do?
4. Would you seek a beautiful partner in marriage or chose some other criterion?
5. Do you think we can judge someone's character by looks? Do looks reveal anything about character?