

Open Your Class With This Tomorrow

Why Beautiful People Have More Daughters

Background:

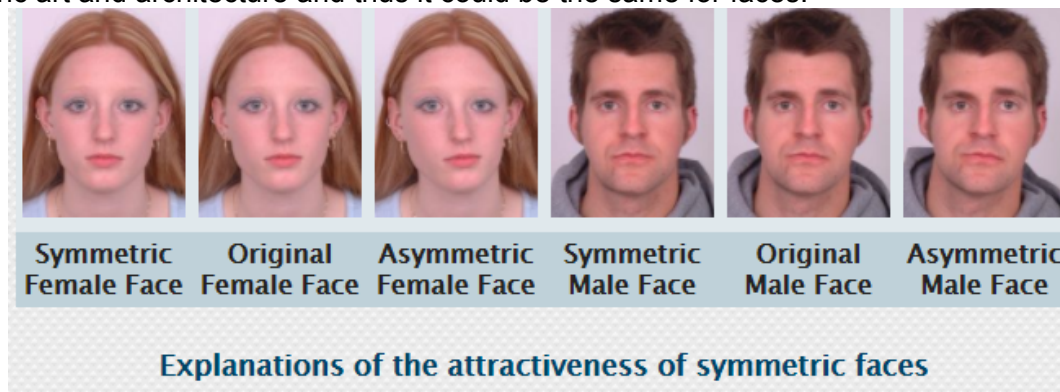
Although what is considered attractive varies by culture and period social psychologists have identified factors to broad factors that are universally recognized as attractive:

facial symmetry and facial averageness.

Many other factors are related to attraction besides physical attractiveness including similarity, proximity/proximity, reciprocity, and mere exposure.

Directions: Introduce two aspects of physical attractiveness (facial symmetry and facial averageness), which are universal in nature by showing the following videos and utilizing the recommended websites.

Facial Symmetry: Individuals who have a left and right sides that are mirror images or close to this are generally considered to be attractive. Evolutionary psychologists suggest that symmetry is a sign of physical health and an indication of healthy genes. According to the evolutionary theory, human genes are designed to develop symmetrically but that exposure to disease during development leads to asymmetries in physical appearance. As a result, individuals who are more symmetric are likely to have stronger immune systems, and we have evolved to prefer these individuals because they are more likely to produce healthy offspring. Another theory regarding why humans favor symmetric faces is that the visual system is better able to process symmetric stimuli than stimuli that are asymmetric. It has been demonstrated that individuals prefer symmetric art and architecture and thus it could be the same for faces.



<http://faceresearch.org/students/symmetry>

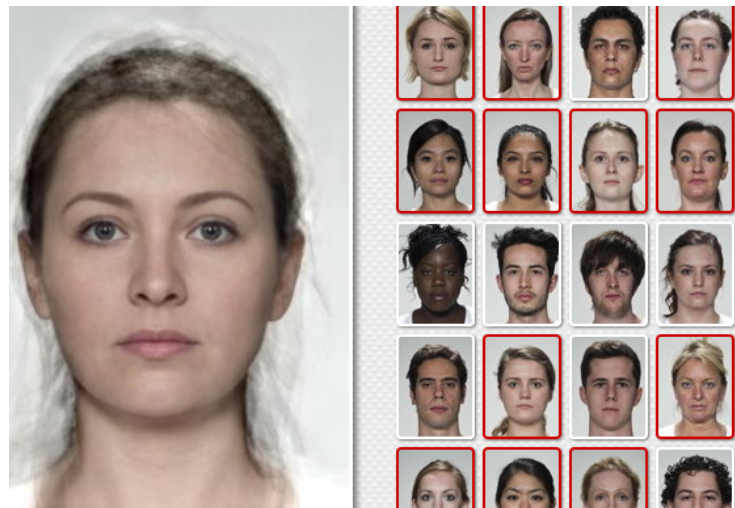
- Show the following video from the Discovery Channel documentary titled *The Science of Sex Appeal*, which shows research on symmetry.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9tGzyxN_HM
- Show the following video on defining beauty and attractiveness.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07MzPrkwJsw>
- For fun visit, the following website which allows you to examine symmetry in several celebrities by sliding the bar to the left and the right on a photo of their face.
<http://www.buzzfeed.com/omarvillegas/heres-what-15-celebs-would-look-like-if-their-faces-were-sym?bffb#.sb8pL2E7e>

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Average Faces: Individuals who have an average width, eye size, etc. are rated more attractive than faces that deviate from average. Computer programs take several photographs and combine them to show what an average woman or man look like and the result is an attractive face. In the 1800's Sir Francis Galton was the first to generate combined images of faces by projecting photographs of different people onto one piece of photographic film. Galton was attempting to find out which facial characteristics would be common to a type of people (e.g. soldiers or thieves). When Galton and others examined these combined images, the consensus was that the result was a face that was more attractive than any of the individuals. Individuals who have exaggerated versions of the average features for their sex are seen as extremely attractive. For example, the average woman has large eyes, full lips, and a small chin, so a woman with exaggerated versions of these traits will be seen as attractive. Watch the following videos on how this research is done and then use the website link to create male and female faces.

- Show the following video on defining beauty and attractiveness regarding average faces, facial symmetry, and waist to hip ratio and other factors.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07MzPrkwJsw>
- Show the following video from the Discovery Channel documentary titled The Science of Sex Appeal, which shows research on average faces.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVhKSzSpXMA>
- Show the following TED Talk on the Science of Attraction
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVE6kZW88lc>
- For fun visit, the following website which allows you to create average male and female faces from both regular individuals and using celebrities. In the screenshot below the "average face" on the left was created as a combination of all of the faces outlined in red on the right. This website also includes numerous articles, demos, and experiments related to other aspects of the study of attractiveness.
<http://faceresearch.org/demos/average>



<http://faceresearch.org/demos/average>

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