

Hair

By Karen Kellahar

Your hair grows from tiny, tube-shaped pockets called hair follicles (FOL-ih-cuhls). Colorful substances called pigments are produced inside the follicles. These pigments give color to your hair.

One pigment is called melanin. It is brownish-black. If you have dark hair, you have a lot of melanin. The other hair pigment is a yellow-red color. This lighter pigment shows up only when there is not a lot of melanin. That's what makes a person's hair blond or red.

As people grow older, their hair follicles stop making pigments. Then hair begins to lose its color. It turns either white or gray. Some people go gray or white sooner than others.

Hair

1. What are the different types of pigment hair can have?

Right There

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2. Who are some people you know whose hair is turning gray?

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3. What is the colorful substance inside your follicles called?

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4. Does your hair have a lot of melanin? Explain.

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