



**A Skim the article.** What is it about?

- a what colors mean    b the history of dyes    c why colors are important

Can you imagine a world without colors? We could still eat, sleep, and work, but life would be boring.

Colored clothes go back to 2,600 B.C. People made colors—called dyes—with plants, parts of animals, and other natural substances. They mixed these things with water and oil and used them to dye clothes and jewelry. In many parts of the world, people used yellow dyes because they could get them from different plants. Some colors were rare. For example, indigo—a kind of blue dye—came from plants that were specific to India and Southeast Asia.

The shellfish necessary to make purple was only found on one side of the Mediterranean Sea. It took thousands of them to make purple cloth. Because of this, purple was the rarest color, used for kings and queens. Purple clothes gave people power and status.

**B Complete the sentences about *Discovering Color*.** Circle the correct answers.

People started to <sup>1</sup> **make / dye** clothes around 4,600 years ago. They used <sup>2</sup> **parts of trees / plastic** to make some dyes. Yellow was <sup>3</sup> **more / less** common than blue. Purple was probably the most expensive dye because people used <sup>4</sup> **a lot of shellfish / rare plants** to make it.