

READING: JEWELLERY TALKS

Throughout history, people have used accessories to make their outfits look more special. Jewellery was, and still is, in fashion all over the world. Through the years, people have worn jewellery for different reasons: to make themselves look beautiful, to protect them from bad things, and to show how much money they have.

In South Africa, men in the Ndebele tribe often gave their wives jewellery made of metal rings. Ndebele women wore necklaces around their necks and bracelets around their arms. Rings were even worn on their legs. The rings showed wealth.

A woman with many rings had a richer husband. In the past, women only took off the rings when their husbands died. Today, Ndebele women still wear the rings, but not all of the time.



People in India have been wearing jewellery for more than 5,000 years. In the past, both men and women wore a lot of jewellery. Women wore as many as 50 bracelets at a time! Over time, men stopped wearing so much jewellery, but for women jewellery continues to be very important. In India, jewellery means security. If a family has trouble with money, they can always sell their jewellery. And, as with the Ndebele



tribe, jewellery means wealth. Indian women can expect to receive jewellery as gifts for each important life event, such as birth, marriage and becoming a mother. In addition to wearing bracelets and necklaces, Indian women might pierce their nose or wear rings on their toes.

In ancient China, people wore jewellery not just to show wealth but also for protection. They believed that the jade stone used in their jewellery - was alive and that it kept bad things away. Many Chinese people today still believe this, and they wear jade bracelets for protection. They only wear the bracelets on their left arms, and they only take them off when necessary.

AFTER YOU READ. SAY IF THESE SENTENCES ARE TRUE OR FALSE.

1. People wear jewellery for a lot of different reasons.
2. Ndebele women buy their own metal rings.
3. Ndebele women today never take off their metal rings.
4. Indian women didn't wear much jewellery in the past.
5. Chinese people still wear jade bracelets for protection.
6. All jewellery today is very different from jewellery long ago.