



Yellow Pencils and Pink Erasers

In 1889, the Hardtmuth pencil company wanted to showcase the quality of its graphite.

This graphite came from Siberia, which shared borderlands with China. Hardtmuth began painting its pencils yellow because the Chinese emperor wore yellow.

Have you ever wondered why so many pencils are yellow?

One of the most popular erasers, however, contained pink Italian pumice. Although erasers no longer contain pumice, pink remains a popular color for erasers today.

So, why are many erasers pink? Erasers used to contain pumice to make them more abrasive. Pumice came in many colors, such as red or white.

These new "luxury pencils" were named Koh-I-Noor, after one of the largest diamonds in the world. Soon, other companies began selling yellow pencils too.

Sources:

"The Little-Known Reason Pencils are Yellow" — Gabrielle Hick, artsy.net

"Why Erasers are Pink" — Abigail Cain, artsy.net



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