How is face cream made?

“I’ll be home soon, Meg! Take care of your sister!” Janet shouted to her oldest daughter as she left the house in a hurry. She had an important job interview, and she would be late if she didn’t leave now. “Yeah, I know!” Meg shouted back. She heard the door shut, and knew that now, her mom was out of the house.

 “ Ok. Where’s Madison?” Meg talked to herself. Madison, Meg’s 5 year old younger sister, was always such a troublemaker. “Madison?? Madison?” Meg yelled, stomping up the stairs. She heard no reply. ‘Uh oh..’ She thought, if Madison is silent, that usually means that there’s trouble.

 “Madison? Are you okay?” Meg yelled, now running. “I’m in here!” Madison yelled from the washroom. Meg immediately ran into the washroom, and gasped in horror. Madison was slathering her mom’s face cream all over her little face! The cream was even dripping off her pale blond hair to the floor. “ Madison! What have you done?” Meg screamed, furious. “I wanted to look pretty like mommy!” Madison grinned sheepishly. Meg groaned and took a wet towel, to wipe off the slimy face cream off of Madison’s face. Suddenly, Madison started yelling. “Ow, ow, it hurts!” she said. Meg took the towel off of her little sister’s face, alarmed. “Oh no!” Meg cried, as she saw Madison’s face, which was red and swelled. “The ingredients in this face cream must’ve irritated your skin!” She said, her face crumpling into a frown. She grabbed the face cream immediately and read through the ingredients. “Ohhh..” Meg sighed, knowing that the heavy fragrance in the face cream was what was causing the irritation on Madison’s extremely sensitive skin. “Go wash your face, Maddie. Don’t you dare get in trouble like this next time!” Meg told Madison.

 Now that the problem was solved and Madison’s face would heal soon, Meg didn’t have to worry anymore. Yet, she couldn’t help noticing all the crazy, long named ingredients in the face cream, like dimethicone, or petroleum. “Whaa? What are these ingredients?” She murmured to herself. Soon, her curiosity took over her, and Meg found herself reaching for the laptop to search up how in the world these ridiculously complicated ingredients ended up in her mom’s face cream.

 Okay. First ingredient: Dimethicone. Meg searched it up in her laptop, and clicked on a website that explained all about dimethicone. “ Dimethicone provides a protective layer above the skin, to lock in moisture. This ingredient is derived from silicon, which comes from silica, which comes from sand. This sand is usually mined in China, but Canada also has places where silica can be mined, such as Quebec or Ontario.” Meg read. “Sand? We’re rubbing sand all over our skin?” she shook her head, confused. But then, she decided to keep researching.

 Meg typed in ‘petroleum’ in the search bar. She came across a video that explained the ingredient, petroleum. “Petroleum is used in many beauty products, such as vaseline, for example. But, petroleum is actually a fossil fuel, made by the decomposition of organic matter over millions of years. Petroleum is also used in making plastic. “ Meg heard, as she watched animated characters explain how petroleum is made. “Huh. That’s weird.” Meg murmured to herself.

 She decided to search up just one more ingredient, since she didn’t want to spend too much time on the laptop. So, she searched up the last ingredient, aluminum. She found an article that explained exactly what she needed to know. “ Aluminum is a silvery, lightweight metal, the most common element on Earth. It is mined mainly in China or Australia. A mixture of aluminum and other ingredients is used in many skin creams, to thicken the texture of the cream.” Meg read. “A metal? In skin cream?” Meg was surprised by the amount of strange items included in making a simple skin cream.

 Even though she wanted to continue to read, she knew she had to take care of her sister, so she turned off her laptop and turned to where Madison had been.

 “Madison, what do you want for lunch?” She asked, but soon realized that Madison was nowhere to be seen. Meg gasped, because she had never noticed that Madison had gone away. “Maddi?” She asked, looking around. “Meg! I’m in the kitchen!” Meg heard Maddison shout from a distance, the shout followed by a cheeky giggle, a giggle that could only be heard when Madison was making trouble. “Oh no, not again!” Meg groaned miserably, then ran off to find her sneaky little sister again. Things would never be normal with Madison as her sister!

Bibliography:

<https://www.acme-hardesty.com/green-cosmetics-sustainable-beauty/>

<https://www.healthline.com/health/beauty-skin-care/dimethicone#takeaway>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/petroleum/>

<https://www.britannica.com/science/aluminum>

<https://www.healthline.com/health/beauty-skin-care/petroleum-jelly#takeaway>

<https://thedermreview.com/dimethicone/>

By Catherine Lee