Black Couple Gives Birth to White, Blonde Baby

Genetics experts have been amazed by the birth of a blonde, blue-eyed white baby - a to black couple. Doctors insist tiny Nmachi is not an albino and neither of the parents has any mixed-race family history. Dad Ben Ihegboro, 44, a railway customer services adviser, said: “We both just sat there after the birth staring at her for ages - not saying anything. "The first thing I said was ‘What the flip?’” Nmachi, whose name means Beauty of God in the Nigerian homeland of parents Angela and Ben, was born at Queen Mary’s Hospital in Sidcup, Kent.

Doctors there told them she is not an albino. “She doesn’t look like the ones I’ve seen back in Nigeria or in books,” Ben told The Sun. “She just looks like a healthy white baby.” Ben added: “Of course, she’s mine. My wife is true to me. Even if she hadn’t been, the baby still wouldn’t look like that.

“We don’t know of any white ancestry. We wondered if it was a genetic twist. But even then, what’s with the long curly blonde hair?” Geneticist Dr Mark Thomas, of University College, London, said the odds of the baby’s white ancestry for a pale version of their genes to be passed on. Geneticist Dr Mark Thomas, of University College, London, said the odds of the baby’s white ancestry for a pale version of their genes to be passed on. "We don’t know of any white ancestry. We wondered if it was a genetic twist. But even then, what’s with the long curly blonde hair?"

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Airline food ‘putting passengers at risk’

The companies who supply in-flight food to most of the major US airlines are risking passengers’ safety because of how the food is prepared, according to a new report. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) found problems including cockroaches, rats and poor hygiene among workers at the three companies who provide food to Delta, American, United, Continental, US Airways and more.

The working conditions at LSG Sky Chefs, Gate Gourmet and Flying Food Group could lead to food poisoning outbreaks on flights, reports USA Today. The companies operate 91 kitchens and together supply more than 100 million meals every year.

Roy Costa, a consultant and public health sanitarian, told the paper: “In spite of best efforts by the FDA and industry, the situation with in-flight catered foods is disturbing, getting worse and now poses a real risk of illness and injury to tens of thousands of airline passengers on a daily basis.”

A representative from one of the companies involved - Gate Gourmet - said that the findings would be taken ‘very seriously’.

Professor Bryan Sykes, head of Human Genetics at Oxford University, said: “In mixed race humans, the lighter variant of skin tone may come out in a child - and this can sometimes be startlingly different to the skin of the parents. This might be the case where there is a lot of genetic mixing, as in Afro-Caribbean populations. But in Nigeria there is little mixing.”

He said that both parents would have needed some form of white ancestry for a pale version of their genes to be passed on.

“The hair is extremely unusual,” Prof Sykes said. “Even many blonde children don’t have blonde hair like this at birth.” Some form of unknown mutation was the most likely explanation, he added.

The couple, of Woolwich, south London, have two other children, four-year-old Chisom and sister Dumebi, two.

Mum Angela, 35, told the paper: “Nmachi’s colour doesn’t matter. She’s a miracle baby, but still, what on earth happened here?” The baby’s parents agreed to let experts study Nmachi.

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