

FASHION

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Word List

accessories (ak-SES-eh-reez) Things worn with an outfit to make a complete look, such as belts, jewelry, scarves, and hats.

archeologist (ark-ee-AHL-uh-jist) A scientist who tries to find the truth about things that happened in the past.

Assyria (uh-SEER-ee-uh) An ancient empire of western Asia.

brocade (broh-KADE) An oriental silk fabric with a raised pattern of gold and silver.

brooches (BROO-chez) Pieces of jewelry that are held by pins or clasps and usually worn near the neck.

carmine (KAR-mine) A dye made from the dried bodies of insects.

chador (CHEH-der) A large cloth usually worn by Muslim women as a combination head covering, veil, and shawl.

chopines (chah-PEENS) Brocaded leather slippers attached to wooden stilts about two feet high.

crinoline (KRIN-uh-lin) An open-weave fabric of horsehair or cotton that is stiffened and used for underskirts and lining.

cuticles (KYEW-ti-kulz) The skin around each fingernail.

damask (DA-mesk) A fabric that is a bit stiff and shiny and has flat patterns.

dhoti (DOE-tee) A kind of loincloth worn by men in India.

embroidered (em-BROY-derd) Having fancy patterns made with needlework.

ermine (ER-min) An animal like a weasel whose fur turns white in winter and is used to make fur coats and trim.

Euphrates (yoo-FRATE-eez) A large Middle Eastern river that flows through Turkey and Iraq, where it joins the Tigris River.

farthingale (FAR-then-gale) A kind of support, formed of hoops, worn under a skirt to make it wider at the hips.

henna (HEH-nuh) A reddish-brown dye made from a plant and usually put in hair.

kimono (kee-MOE-noh) A loose robe tied at the waist with a sash.

palla (PAH-luh) A cloaklike garment sometimes worn over a toga.

Papua New Guinea (PA-pyew-eh noo GIN-ee) An island country in the western Pacific Ocean.

Pima (PEE-muh) Native Americans who lived in the southwestern United States (Arizona).

pleated (PLEE-ted) A garment that has many folds of cloth made by doubling the material over on itself.

Papago (puh-PAY-go) Native Americans who lived in the southwestern United States (Arizona).

saffron (SAF-ron) Dried parts of crocus flowers used to dye or color things yellow.

sari (SAH-ree) A long piece of cloth that is usually framed on three sides by decorations of flowering plants and abstract symbols.

sarong (seh-RONG) A traditional wrap-around skirt worn by people in Indonesia.

Sumerians (suh-MARE-ee-enz) People who lived between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

tapa (TAH-peh) A cloth made by beating, drying, and decorating the inner bark of the mulberry tree.

ti (tee) Leaves on certain trees or shrubs that grow in Asia and the Pacific islands.

Tigris (TIE-gris) A river that flows through Turkey and Iraq where it joins the Euphrates River.

toga (TOE-guh) A garment made from a sheet of cloth about 9 yards long and draped attractively around the body.

tunic (TOO-nik) A simple slip-on garment with or without sleeves, usually knee length, belted at the waist.

turban (TER-bun) A headdress made of a cap with a long cloth wound around it, worn mostly in Mediterranean and Middle Eastern countries.

Yoruba (yoe-ROO-buh) A tribe living in Nigeria, Africa.

yucca (YUK-uh) A plant with spiny leaves that grows in warm climates.

Chapter 1

Everybody Wears Something

Imagine a very well-dressed gentleman wearing a wide-brimmed hat decorated with loops of striped green ribbon. Hanging from under his hat he has long corkscrew curls that reach his shoulders. His red coat is knee length. His pants are also knee length and are tied with ribbons. His stockings are tight, and his shoes have high heels. In Europe in the 1600s, he was wearing the latest fashions.

At the very same time in Papua New Guinea (PA-pyew-eh noo GIN-ee), in the western Pacific Ocean, a proud man is wearing decorations made from clay, wood, and shells on his arms and legs. On his head is a huge headdress made from the colorful feathers of a bird of paradise. His skirtlike costume is made from the feathers of the white cockatoo and black cassowary birds.

In his village, he is known as a snappy dresser.

What people wore at any time in history depended a lot on where they lived. How much or how little they wore depended a great deal on the weather. The Native Americans in California wore a piece of material that hung from the waist in the front and back. It was called a breech cloth. When the weather got cold, they put on cloaks made from rabbit or deerskin. Native American women wore grass skirts or leather aprons. They also wore cloaks in the cold weather. Their cloaks were sometimes made from otter or wildcat skins.

Native Americans wore simple clothing, but they still thought about how they looked. They decorated their hair with small shells, bones, and stones. They also wore fancy headdresses made of feathers and beads.

The Pima (PEE-muh) and Papago (puh-PAY-go) people who lived in the southwest United States were good weavers. They



Artist's Depiction: Fujiko

Prehistoric people usually had very simple clothing.

used yucca (YUK-uh), bear grass, and other natural materials to weave mats, bags, and baskets. The men wore yucca sandals and deerskin clothing that wrapped around their bodies. The women wore woven tunics (TOO-niks).

There were two reasons why early people wore clothes. They wore them mainly for protection against bad weather. They also liked to decorate themselves. They most

likely got the idea when they noticed that many animals and birds had fur and feathers to keep them warm. So cave dwellers wrapped themselves in the skins and furs of bison, tigers, mammoths, reindeer, gorillas, and wolves. People today use a process called tanning to make animal hides soft and wearable, but cave people had to invent their own ways of keeping the skins from becoming hard when they dried out. They soaked the hides in water, beat them with huge hammers, and even chewed them to make them soft. Cave dwellers wrapped strips of these softened animal hides around their feet, making the very first shoes. Sometimes these early people colored the hides with powdered red, yellow, or black rocks.

Chapter 2

The First Fashions



Artist's Depiction: Fujiko

An Egyptian woman wearing pleated clothes.

At some point around 12,000 years ago, cloth replaced hide in some places. The Ancient Egyptians wove cloth from flax and cotton, but it came apart easily. So the people began draping their clothes around their bodies and tying them at the waist to keep them in place.

Needles that could be threaded were invented, and the first true fabrics became common. Soon afterwards, the loom was invented, and that made weaving garments easier and faster.

In ancient Egypt, clothes were almost

always white, but once in a while colorful thread was sewn into the garments in pretty designs. The clothing was draped and pleated (PLEE-ted). It was important to the Egyptians to be in style and to look beautiful. Cleanliness was important, and people took baths often. Hair was styled with combs and hairpins. Barbers often came to the homes of rich women to help them style their hair. Some men and women shaved their heads so they could wear wigs made from the hair of slaves or sheep's wool. They used beeswax to glue the wigs to their bald heads. Wigs were blue, green, blond, or gold. People decorated them with gold dust or golden beads.

Makeup was easy to get in Egypt if you were rich. Women used rosewater and egg whites for facials. They spread perfumed oil on their skin and used yellow-red henna (HEH-nuh) dye on their nails. Lips were colored orange-red with carmine dye (KAR-mine), made from dried insect bodies. Nothing was colored bright red in

Egypt because the people thought that color was magical or even dangerous. People who had red hair were thought of as freaks. Veins on the forehead were colored with blue dye so you could see them better. The Egyptians thought that this was beautiful. Crushed ant eggs were used to outline the eyes. Eyelids were colored green or black, and there were beauty secrets for women with skin problems.

Blemishes, or pimples, could be cleared up by putting on a cream made from a young bull's bile, which is the yellow liquid that comes from the liver. Whipped ostrich eggs, dough, and milk were also used to clear up skin. To get rid of wrinkles, women made a potion out of incense, olive oil, and wax and spread it on their faces. This potion had to stay on the face for six full days in order to work.