

CLOTHING ACTIVITY

MAIN IDEA:

In this activity, students will learn about clothing from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. They will learn what the men on the Lewis & Clark expedition wore as well as what civilians wore. Students will be able to create their own paper doll with images of period clothing. They will also be able to identify period terms for certain clothing items.

OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to:

- 1) Identify civilian clothing of the late 18th and early 19th centuries
- 2) Identify military clothing of the late 18th and early 19th centuries
- 3) Create their own paper doll dressed appropriately for the time period.
- 4) Identify the materials used in making clothing.

MATERIALS:

- 1) Clothing sheets provided
- 2) Scissors
- 3) Crayons or Markers
- 4) Glue or Gluesticks

LEARNING STANDARDS: Materials may be appropriate for Illinois Learning Standards: 16.A.1a, 16.A.1c, 16.A.2c, 18.c.1, 26.B.1d, 26.B.2d.

PREPARATION:

Before class, teachers should print out the paper doll bodies and the clothing sheets for students to cut out. For younger students, the images are already put together and can be colored. For older students, the clothing can be cut out and glued onto the body. Afterwards, the students may want to color their paper dolls.

* Included in this lesson plan is material which serves as a background on clothing from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Students should become familiar with this information before doing the paper doll activity or the word match. Included are descriptions and some pictures of clothing from the expedition time period.

CLOTHING OF 1803

- This information corresponds to the pictures of clothing on the next page.

FEMALE CLOTHING:

- Women and girls almost always wore hats or caps. It prevented their hair from getting dirty while they worked. A country cap is pictured, but other kinds were worn as well.
- The chemise (or shift) was the garment all women wore next to the skin. Other clothes were worn over it. It also served as a nightgown.
- The bodice was much like a vest and covered the upper torso.
- An apron was necessary to prevent the clothing from being soiled while performing daily chores
- A skirt was also called a petticoat. Many times several would be worn in layers.

MALE CLOTHING:

- The shirt was long, often falling to the knees and was always tucked into the pants or breeches.
- A vest (not pictured) was always worn in public. It was sometimes called a waistcoat (pronounced weskit).
- In 1803, men wore knee length breeches or long pants.
- With knee breeches, long stockings were also worn.
- Many types of hats were worn, but tri-corns were going out of fashion. Wool knit voyager caps were very practical
- A well-to-do man might carry a pocket watch (chronometer) in his vest pocket.
- When a man went on a hunting expedition, he would carry his gunpowder in a powder horn.
- He would carry flints, shot and gun tools in a possibles bag.
- He would carry his lunch and any personal items he needed in his haversack.



Country Cap

Chemise

Bodice

Apron

Skirt



Canteen



Possibles Bag



Haversack



Shirt



voyagers cap



Stockings

Powder Horn



Pocket Watch

Source: Jas. Townsend & Son, Inc.

A COLONIAL GENTLEMAN'S CLOTHING: A GLOSSARY OF TERMS

BREECHES

From the late 16th century until the early 19th century, most men wore breeches as their lower body garment. In the early 18th century breeches were barely seen beneath long waistcoats and coats. By the mid-18th century they were more noticeable beneath shorter waistcoats and open coats, and so the cut of breeches became tighter and revealed the shape of the leg. Worn by all levels of society, breeches were made in a great variety of silks, cottons, linens, wool, knits and leathers.

COAT

A coat was the upper most layer of the 18th century man's suit, worn over waistcoat and breeches. In the early 18th century a coat was a relatively straight, loose garment, with the slight fullness in the knee-length skirts falling into folds over the backside of the hips., In the 1730s an alternative to the weighty full skirted coat was developed. This new fashioned coat was termed a Frock. Through the middle decades of the century both the coat and the frock were worn, coats being for fashionable full dress, frocks for fashionable undress. By the 1770s the distinctions in purpose and terminology were becoming blurred. None but the most conservative older man would be seen in a full-skirted coat. The frock had entered into fashionable full dress, and was by many simply referred to as a coat. In the closing decade of the 18th century and into the next, the frock dominated fashionable dress.

CRAVAT

The 18th century man almost always wore some sort of neck cloth, whether fashionably dressed or at labor. The cravat was one of many forms of neckwear. It was a narrow length of white linen that could be adorned on its ends with lace, fringe, or knots. It was worn wrapped about the throat and loosely tied in front. By the mid 18th century it was worn in informal attire.

HAT

Custom dictated that hats should be carried beneath the arm. Rapidly, the hat began to be folded to make it easier to carry. In the 18th century this habit and changing fashions led to many sorts of folded or cocked hats. It was the hat with three sides cocked that dominated fashion and was seen in innumerable variations of adornment and proportion. Working men often wore straw hats while they were working.

HUNTING SHIRT

During the second half of the 18th century a garment referred to as a "hunting shirt" began to appear in North America. The earliest form seems similar to the coarse shirts that European wagon drivers and farmers wore as a protective coverall. It is with the frontier that this garment is most associated.

SHIRT

The shirt was worn as a man's undergarment, covering the body from neck to knee. Most were made of white linen which could be very fine or very coarse. A gentleman's best shirt may have ruffles (ruffs) at the wrist and/or breast. A laborer's shirt was sometimes made of unbleached linen or small patterned checks and stripes.

SHOES

Men's shoes were made in a great variety of styles and qualities. Fashionable low-heeled shoes or pumps were of softer leather, coarse common shoes of sturdier leathers. Black was by far the most usual color, and only occasionally were other colors seen. While buckles were the primary mode of fastening, ties were worn for utilitarian purposes.

WAISTCOAT

The 18th century man was almost never seen without his waistcoat. Not to have it on was considered "undressed." The waistcoat, or vest, of the 1770s was fashionably worn to the upper part of the thigh, opening in a "V" beneath the stomach. Waistcoats were made in all qualities of silk, cotton, wool, and linens. If adorned, it could be embroidered, printed, brocaded, quilted, tasseled, silver or gold laced, and was generally the most elaborate article of men's dress. When worn for utilitarian purposes it could have sleeves, be called a jacket, and worn outermost instead of a longer skirted fashionable coat.

WIGS

Throughout Western history wigs have come and gone from fashion, but it is undeniably the 18th century that was the golden age of male wig wearing. In the second half of the prior century, wigs had entered into court fashion in both England and France. By mid century wig wearing was available to most levels of society for the individuals who chose to do so. While certain styles of wigs became associated with particular professionals, the vast majority of wigs had no particular connotations. Made of human, horse, goat or yak hair, the choice of material and styles changed constantly with fashion and personal preferences. In the closing decade of the century the wearing of wigs was less common amongst the young and fashionable, although some conservatives continued to wear wigs into the 19th century.

A COLONIAL LADY'S CLOTHING: A GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CAP

The cap was worn by women and girls to dress their heads. It was a practical piece that allowed the head to be dressed without styling the hair. At the same time it protected the hair from everyday dust and dirt so that the hair need not be washed as frequently. A hat was tied on top of the cap when going out. The cap could be made of linen, or cotton, or even all lace. Lace and ruffles could be added to the cap.

DRESS

Dress in the 18th century referred to the overall fashion for everyone and not a single garment. It was the total look from head to toe. Full dress would refer to the most formal, fashionable look. Today the military's most formal uniform is referred to as the full-dress uniform. Fashionable Undress: In the 18th century this referred to the less formal clothing for everyone, but still in the best of fashion. Usually worn during the day.

FAN

Women carried fans on hot summer days to keep themselves cool. The fans often had beautifully painted designs on them. Young women sometimes used their fans as a way of flirting with young men.

GOWN

Throughout the 18th century a woman's dress usually consisted of a gown and petticoat. The gown consisted of the bodice and skirt joined together, with the skirt open in the front to reveal the separate petticoat, which was an essential part of the dress and not an undergarment.

HAT

Worn for fashion and for protection against the sun, a lady out of doors almost always wore a hat. A fashionable hat usually had a very shallow, flat crown and a wide brim. Hats of chips or straw were the most popular from the 1730s to the 1770s. There were many ways for them to be trimmed, and trims would change with the fashions. A straw hat might even be entirely covered with fabric.

PETTICOAT

A woman's skirt-like garment worn with a gown or jacket. Most gowns were open-fronted robes needing the addition of the petticoat to fill the gap. Quilted ones could be worn for both warmth and fashion.

SHIFT

The shift was the undermost garment worn by children and women. It served the same purpose as the man's shirt. Made from various qualities of white linen, it had a drawstring or plain neck, as well as drawstrings or cuffs at the elbows. It could be plain or lace trimmed.

SHOES

Shoes were made of silk fabrics, worsteds, or leathers. Depending on current fashions, they may or may not have had elevated heels. They would fasten by buckles, clasps or, if very utilitarian they might have ties. Wealthy women wore shoes made from expensive fabrics like silk. Some of these shoes were decorated with elaborate and colorful designs. Working women's shoes were utilitarian, and they were made out of leather. They were plain black.

SLEEVE RUFFLES

Ruffles were attached to the edge of the gown sleeves to cover the elbows. Either plain or lace trimmed ruffles, the degree of decoration and the number of ruffles varied with fashion.

STAYS

Stays were the essential foundation garment of the 18th century. They developed from the "boned bodies" of the 17th century, and in the 19th century were to become corsets. But just as the names of these garments changed, so did the shape and effect upon the body. The fashionable 17th century torso was an elongated tubular trunk, with little taper and encased the bosom. Through the 18th century, stays covered the body with their conical form, lifting and supporting the bosom. In the 19th century corsets created a curvilinear body, minimizing the waist. The stays of the 18th century, therefore, did much more to support the body and remind one of good posture than they did to cinch the waist. Women of the gentry and middling sorts wore stays most of the time. Children of these classes also wore stays to learn proper carriage. While fashionable ladies' stays were wanted for a good shape, working women needed them for good support. All women were admonished by their contemporaries to not tightly lace or "straight" lace their stays out of concern for possible injury.

A COLONIAL MILITARY MAN'S CLOTHING: A GLOSSARY OF TERMS

In 1803, the annual clothing allowance for enlisted men was one hat, one coat, one vest, two pairs of woolen overalls, two pairs of linen overalls, a coarse linen frock and trousers for fatigue duty, four pairs of shoes, four shirts, two pairs of socks, two pairs of short stockings, a blanket, a stock and clasp, and a pair of half gaiters.

Source: *Tailor Made, Trail Worn* by Robert J. Moore Jr. and Michael Haynes.

ARTILLERY COAT

These uniform coats were made of navy blue dyed wool with red wool collars, cuffs, and lapels. The buttonholes and the edges of the lapels, cuffs, and collars were accented with gold lace. The officers wore a gold epaulette on the right shoulder to signify their position.

BOOTS

These were worn by officers and came to mid-calf. They were plain and made out of leather. The front often had a "V"-shaped opening.

CHAPEAU BRAS (COCKED HATS)

From the front, this hat looked like a crescent moon. It was easy to carry under the arm. On the hat was a cockade made from silk which was in a starburst design with an eagle in the center. There was also a red dyed feather to signify artillery and a white dyed feather to signify infantry. The hats were bound in yellow.

FROCK

The frock coat was similar to a long, over-sized shirt made from linen or wool. It was worn over the shirt, vest and sometimes the coat. There is a short skirt around the bottom of the coat.

GAITERS

Gaiters were made of linen and covered the shoes by buttoning around the ankles. A leather strap fit under the shoe. The gaiters were tarred in order to make them stiff. Gaiters ensured that nothing got into the shoe.

INFANTRY COAT

U.S. Army uniform coats were blue with red lining and white trim. They were made from a wool broadcloth dyed with indigo. The officer wore a gold epaulette on the right shoulder to signify his position.

JACKET

Often made of linen, these jackets were similar to vests but had sleeves. They had the same standing collar as the vests and the same amount of buttons. They were popular among the troops.

OVERALLS

These pants were invented in America, and they covered the entire leg and buttoned snugly over the shoes. They were fitted to the leg and were mostly worn by military men. They were made of both wool and linen.

ROUND HATS

Part of the infantry uniform. This hat resembled a top hat. They had wide brims and were made of wool felt with white binding. They had a white deer's tail plume and a sunburst like the chapeau bras. Across the top of the hat was a bearskin crest.

SHOES

Shoes worn by military men were made from leather. Instead of the buckles, however, these shoes had ties.

TROUSERS

Trousers were generally cut with a straight leg and were worn to the ankle or slightly shorter. As trousers were utilitarian garments, they were made mostly of durable linens.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1) What did “dress” mean in the 18th and early 19th centuries?

Answer: Dress referred to the overall fashion for everyone and not a single garment. It was the total look from head to toe.

2) Who wore wigs? What were they made of?

Answer: Both men and women. They were made of human, horse, goat or yak hair.

3) What is a powder horn?

Answer: A man would carry his gunpowder in one of these when he went hunting.

4) What were some of the materials used to make clothing?

Answer: Linen, wool, silk, cotton, knit, or leather.

5) What other name was a vest known by?

Answer: Waistcoat.

6) Why did women carry fans?

Answer: Women carried fans to keep themselves cool on hot days. They also sometimes used their fans to flirt with young men.

7) What were stays?

Answer: Stays were undergarments women wore. Fashionable ladies wore them for a nicer shape, and working women wore them for good support.

8) What was a chapeau bras?

Answer: A type of hat popular among military men. It looked like a crescent moon from the front.

9) What were overalls?

Answer: These were pants that covered the entire leg and buttoned over the shoes.

10) What was a petticoat?

Answer: Petticoats were similar to skirts and were worn with gowns or jackets.

11) Why did women wear aprons?

Answer: Women wore aprons to prevent their clothing from being soiled while performing daily chores.

WORD MATCH

Match the words with their definitions. Use the clues to figure out the answer. Write the answer next to the clue it corresponds to.

Chemise	Breeches	Cravat	Hunting Shirt
Trousers	Waistcoat	Fan	Cap
Dress	Gown	Petticoat	Sleeve Ruffles
Stay	Overalls	Infantry Coat	Artillery Coat
Chapeau Bras	Round Hats	Frock Coat	Gaiters

1. These were made of linen and they covered the shoes by buttoning around the ankles. They ensured that nothing got into a man's shoes.
2. This was a garment worn by women next to the skin. It was also called a shift.
3. All women wore one of these on their heads. It protected the hair from everyday dust and dirt.
4. This was the man's lower body garment. They were the precursor to trousers.
5. These were attached to the edge of the gown sleeves to cover the elbows.
6. These covered the entire leg and buttoned over the shoes. They were fitted to the leg and were mostly worn by military men.
7. This was a man's neck cloth which was made out of white linen.
8. Part of the infantry military uniform. It resembled a top hat.

9. This term refers to the overall fashion for everyone.
10. The 18th century man was never seen without one of these. It was also known as a vest.
11. These uniform coats were made of navy blue dyed wool, and they were accented with gold lace.
12. This garment is most associated with the frontier.
13. Women carried these to keep themselves cool on hot days.
14. This coat was similar to a long, oversized shirt made from linen or wool.
15. These were generally cut with a straight leg and were worn to the ankle or slightly shorter.
16. This was a skirt-like garment that women wore with their gowns or jackets.
17. A type of hat popular among military men. It looked like a crescent moon from the front.
18. This consisted of the bodice and skirt joined together with the skirt open in the front to reveal the petticoat.
19. Part of the U.S. Army uniform which was blue with red lining and white trim.
20. What would later be called a corset. They helped to shape and support.

WORD MATCH (ANSWER SHEET)

Match the words with their definitions. Use the clues to figure out the answer. Write the answer next to the clue it corresponds to.

Chemise	Breeches	Cravat	Hunting Shirt
Trousers	Waistcoat	Fan	Cap
Dress	Gown	Petticoat	Sleeve Ruffles
Stay	Overalls	Infantry Coat	Artillery Coat
Chapeau Bras	Round Hats	Frock Coat	Gaiters

1. These were made of linen and they covered the shoes by buttoning around the ankles. They ensured that nothing got into a man's shoes.

Answer: Gaiters

2. This was a garment worn by women next to the skin. It was also called a shift.

Answer: Chemise

3. All women wore one of these on their heads. It protected the hair from everyday dust and dirt.

Answer: Cap

4. This was the man's lower body garment. They were the precursor to trousers.

Answer: Breeches

5. These were attached to the edge of the gown sleeves to cover the elbows.

Answer: Sleeve Ruffles

6. These covered the entire leg and buttoned over the shoes. They were fitted to the leg and were mostly worn by military men.

Answer: Overalls

7. This was a man's neck cloth which was made out of white linen.

Answer: Cravat

8. Part of the infantry military uniform. It resembled a top hat.

Answer: Round Hat

9. This term refers to the overall fashion for everyone.

Answer: Dress

10. The 18th century man was never seen without one of these. It was also known as a vest.

Answer: Waistcoat

11. These uniform coats were made of navy blue dyed wool, and they were accented with gold lace.

Answer: Artillery coat

12. This garment is most associated with the frontier.

Answer: Hunting Shirt

13. Women carried these to keep themselves cool on hot days.

Answer: Fans

14. This coat was similar to a long, oversized shirt made from linen or wool.

Answer: Frock coat

15. These were generally cut with a straight leg and were worn to the ankle or slightly shorter.

Answer: Trouser

16. This was a skirt-like garment that women wore with their gowns or jackets.

Answer: Petticoat

17. A type of hat popular among military men. It looked like a crescent moon from the front.

Answer: Chapeau Bras

18. This consisted of the bodice and skirt joined together with the skirt open in the front to reveal the petticoat.

Answer: Gown

19. Part of the U.S. Army uniform which was blue with red lining and white trim.

Answer: Infantry Coat

20. What would later be called a corset. They helped to shape and support.

Answer: Stay