

## Art

Over the next 5 weeks we will be working on an art project to run alongside your topic of The Georgians. Throughout this we will be looking at various aspects of clothes and fashion. Each week you will be sent a word document teaching you about how fashion varied from rich to poor. You will then be asked to sketch and label in pencil an image which answers a number of questions to back what you have learnt. At the end of the topic I will ask you to photograph all five sketches as a collage and email it to school for us to see your designs.

### The Georgians

The Georgian Era ran from 1714 when King George I took the throne through 5 Kings to 1837 when King Louis IV died and Queen Victoria started her reign. The Georgian period was known as a period of extreme luxury alongside extreme poverty. This can be seen in the clothes and accessories both men and women wore.

#### **Georgian Era Dress for Women (rich)**

During the Georgian period England enjoyed a stable political climate. However, this was the time when France and England were rivals on the fashion front.



In France, women's fashion started to change drastically during the revolutionary period. The extravagant corsets, panniers, and silk brocade gowns (see picture) were replaced by thin, almost transparent Grecian-like cotton dresses (see picture below).

The idea of neoclassical simplicity (Neoclassical design was based on the principles of simplicity and symmetry) changed the way a female's appearance was treated. The Georgian era dress began to drape and flow. Corsets were discarded completely and the body was allowed to feel free and remain in its natural shape.

A new style of gown called the chemise gown which was made of thin, flowing cotton usually of white or pastel in colour came into the Georgian Fashion.



To start with the chemise gown was considered relaxed and informal, but aristocrats began wearing this style. By 1802, all of fashionable Europe started wearing the chemise gown. Today, this gown is referred to as the Empire style gown. The early English dresses were made from materials like sheer cotton fabrics such as muslin, gauze and percale.

Some dresses had a very detailed, embroidered over skirts and white floaty underskirts.

Raw materials were imported from India and America and were manufactured in the textile mills in England.



### Women's Fashion (poor)



The poorer, lower class lady would have worn the empire gown but in heavier, darker fabrics with less detail in the pattern. Instead of the white sheer underskirt they would have had a heavier apron over the basic dress.

### Men's Fashion (rich)



Lace, embroidery and other embellishments were abandoned during the Georgian era. Cut and tailoring became extremely important as dark, well cut and fitted clothes were considered smarter. Men usually wore cut away cloth coat which had brass buttons on it and with that was a plain waistcoat matching with the pantaloons (short trousers). Shirts were usually made of linen and were worn with a cravat (a type of neck scarf).

High collared waistcoats were in fashion till 1815. Overcoats or greatcoats were also in fashion during that time.

During the evening, men wore black coat and silk pantaloons replacing the knee breeches which had begun to be considered old-fashioned. In fact, the dress got simplified and emphasis was laid on tailoring so that the natural form of the body came out.



### Men's Fashion (poor)



The lower-class man would wear similar styles to that of a poorer man but less tailored and fitted in more dull colours unlike the rich black of the wealthy man.

**Your task.**

Look at either the Woman's Empire line gown or the Man's evening suit. Look at the shape, style, colour and pattern of the clothes. I have written some questions below, using these questions I would like you to draw a detailed picture of either a dress for a Georgian lady or an evening suit for a Georgian gentleman. If you struggle with sketching detail add notes or labels to your design telling me fabric, colour, pattern etc.

Where is the waistband - waist, higher, lower?

What colour is the item or items of clothing?

What detail - embroidery, pattern, bows, ribbons, buttons etc?

Sleeve length - long, short, puffed, fitted?

Length of skirt or trouser leg - long, mid length, short, knee length?

Type of fabric - light and floaty, stiff to hold its shape?

Please draw your sketch on a piece of A4 paper and keep your drawing safe as at the end of the five weeks I would like to see a collage picture of all of your work.