

Discovery session: How We Used to Dress

A gallery based session led by V&A museum educators



Mantua and petticoat of French silk, made in England, 1755-60 © Victoria and Albert Museum

Key Stage:

KS1

Galleries Visited:

Fashion, Level 1

Britain, Rooms 52 – 54, Level 2

Britain, Rooms 122 – 125, Level 4

Summary:

Find out first hand what people would have worn through history and explore how clothes have changed from what we wear today. Students will see and try on examples of fashion from the 18th and 19th centuries including a Mantua court dress, a Victorian corset and crinoline, and an imitation 18th century gentleman's outfit.

National Curriculum Links:

This talk will contribute towards the following learning:

KS1 History

www.vam.ac.uk/primary

- Changes within living memory. Where appropriate, these should be used to reveal aspects of change in national life.
- The lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements. Some should be used to compare aspects of life in different periods

Follow up activities:

At the museum you will have looked at clothes that would have been worn mostly by wealthy people. Now do some research into what people from poorer backgrounds would have worn at the same time as the objects explored in the galleries. Can you find out why very few examples of clothing that belonged to people from poorer backgrounds has survived?

The V&A has a huge collection of clothing and accessories, including paper dresses from the 1960s and a pair of shoes from ancient Egypt made from reeds! What item from your wardrobe would you choose to put into a museum, and why? It could be your school jumper, a special outfit or even your favourite football boots! Can you write a label for your chosen item to describe it to people who might visit the museum?

Booking Information:

Available: Monday-Friday

Cost: FREE

Timing: 1 hour beginning at 10.30, 11.45 & 13.00

Capacity: Maximum 30 students per session

Book now: 020 7942 2000