

CHRISTIAN DIOR DESIGNER OF DREAMS

Children's Activity Book and Trail

2 February – 14 July 2019

Recommended for ages 6–12
with parental guidance.

Supported by

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V&A

This book belongs to:

Welcome to Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams

Complete the activities, find the objects
and answer the quiz questions to learn
more about Dior.



Use the pencils
to complete
the activity.



Can you find
the object?



Answer the
Quiz Questions



Fun Fact!

(Hint: Look at the text panels
or ask an adult if you need help).

Designer of Dreams

Christian Dior is
one of the most
important French
fashion designers
of all time.

He designed his first fashion
collection over 70 years ago,
and this changed the way
people dressed around the
world. He set up his own
fashion company, called a
'fashion house', and grew
it until it was so big he was
famous all over the world.

Sadly, he died only 10 years
after his first collection, but
the House of Dior kept making
beautiful clothing and still does
today. In the exhibition you
will see outfits and accessories
designed by Christian Dior,
but also by the creative
directors who took over the
company after he died. Before
becoming a fashion designer,
Christian Dior tried many
different jobs, including an art
gallery owner and a fashion
illustrator. When Dior was
trying to decide if he wanted
to open his fashion house,
he took a walk and tripped
over a metal star in the street.
He decided that this was lucky
and meant that he was to
become a great designer.



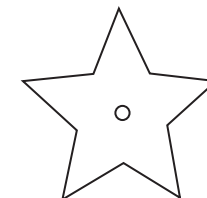
Dior was very superstitious
and liked lucky charms,
especially his lucky star.



Do you have
a lucky charm?
Can you draw it?



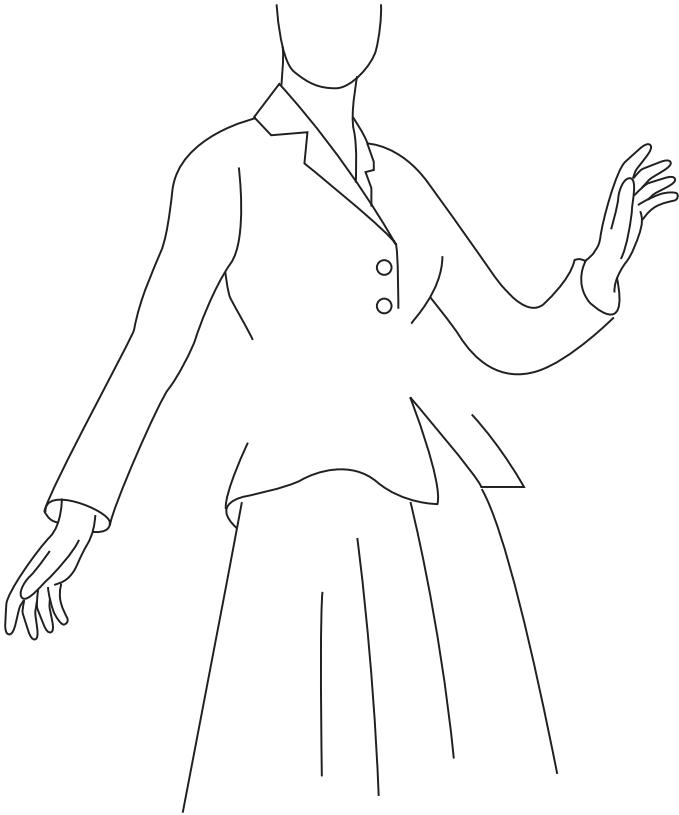
Can you find
his lucky star?
(Hint: look in
the showcase)



The New Look

A journalist named Christian Dior's first collection 'The New Look' because it was so different to other fashion designs of the time. The name stuck, and the New Look is still famous today.

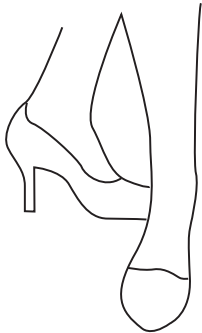
The 'Bar Suit' is an outfit from that first collection. It has the classic 'New Look' shape of a small waist and a big skirt, and is one of Christian Dior's most famous outfits.



Find the Bar Suit and fill in the parts that are missing.



Question 1
What was fashion like before Christian Dior designed the New Look?



The Dior Line

The outline shape of an object is called a silhouette.

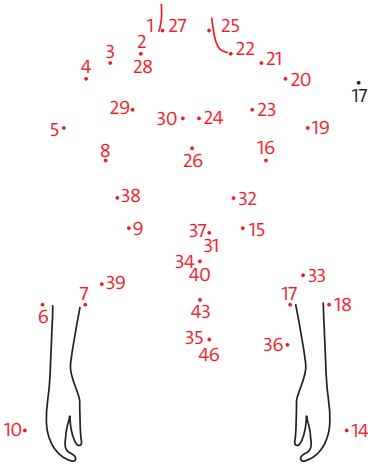
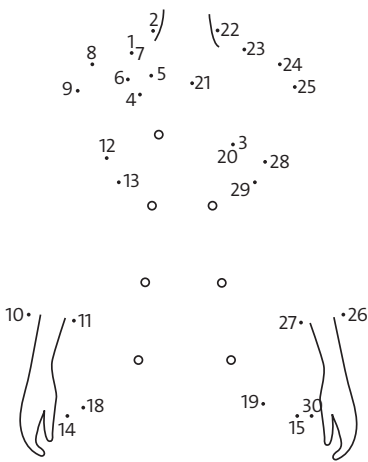
Christian Dior experimented with many different silhouettes for his designs, making his dresses shorter or longer, bigger or smaller. He called each silhouette a line and named them after the shape that inspired it, like the Y-Line and the A-Line, taken from letters of the alphabet.

What would inspire your fashion collection?

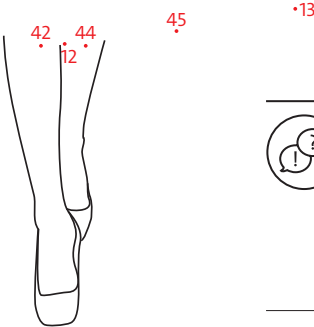


Connect the dots to create one of Christian Dior's famous silhouettes.

Can you find these dresses in the exhibition?



A-Line Dress



Y-Line Dress



Question 2
How many collections did Christian Dior design?

Dior in Britain

Christian Dior loved Great Britain. He came from France to do many fashion shows for charity in England and Scotland. He also opened a smaller version of his company in England so that British women could easily buy clothes he designed.

Dior worked with many British companies that were specialists in making certain things to create beautiful accessories, like shoes and jewellery.



Can you find the unicorn brooch?



Question 3
Which British Princess did Dior design this dress for?



This dress is embroidered with straw!

Historicism

Christian Dior was inspired by historical clothing, and often used silhouettes or details like embroidery from historical clothing in his designs.

The other designers who have worked for Dior were also inspired by history, and they often used historic shapes or types of fabrics in their designs.

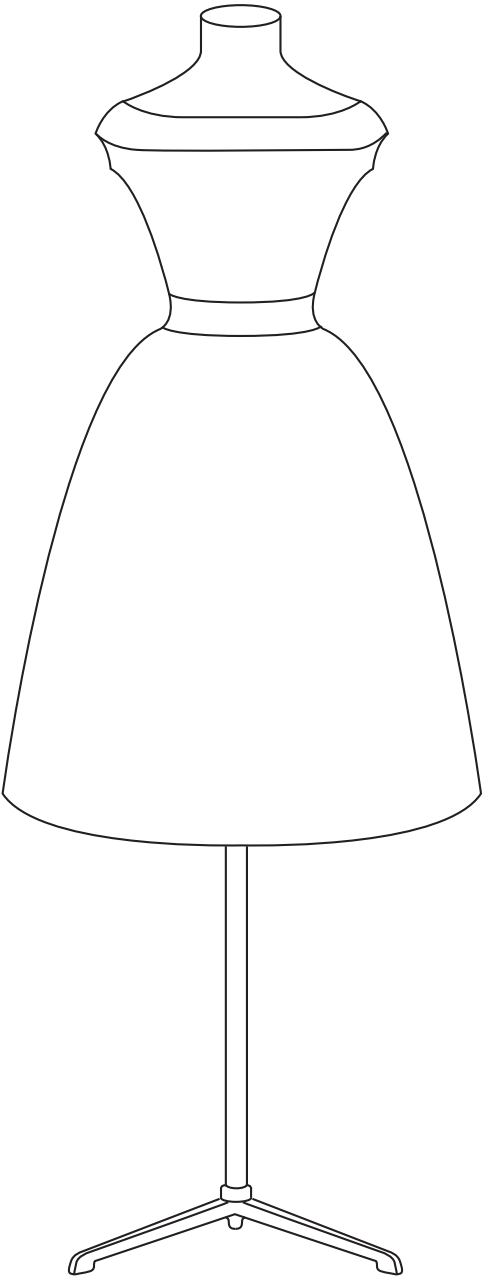
What part of history do you find inspiring?



Question 4
Which French empress inspired Christian Dior?



Design the decoration for this dress.
Look at the dresses in the exhibition for inspiration.



Travels

Christian Dior travelled the world and was influenced by his visits to other countries.

He liked naming dresses after the places that inspired their design, like China, India, Japan and Mexico. All of Dior's designers have been inspired by travelling in different ways including discovering fabrics or meeting people from around the world.

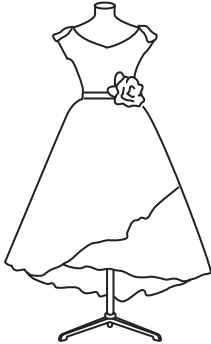
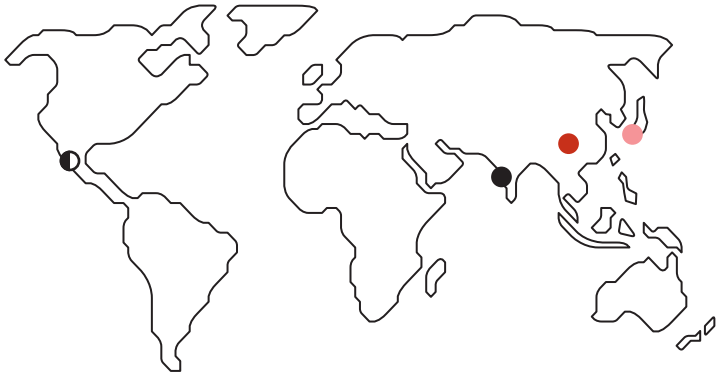
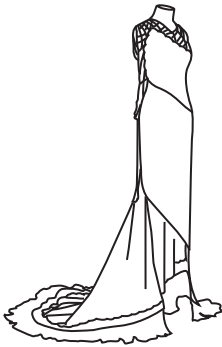
What country would you like to travel to?



Question 5
Which ancient Egyptian God was John Galliano inspired by?
Write or draw the answer.



Match the dress to the country that inspired its design.



The Garden

Christian Dior discovered his love of gardening and flowers when he was a child and this passion continued throughout his life.

He liked to sketch his designs in his garden, surrounded by flowers and plants. His first collection, the New Look, was even based on an upside-down flower. Gardens have inspired all of Dior's later designers, who were often keen gardeners themselves.



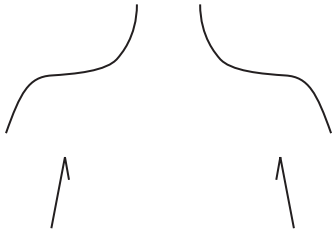
Can you find Bobby the dog?
What do you think he smells like?
Hint: you can find him in the perfume showcase.



Question 6
What was Christian Dior's favourite flower?



Draw your own garment using the flower as inspiration



Designers for Dior

After Christian Dior died, another head designer was chosen to take over the designs for the House of Dior.

Each time a head designer leaves, another one is carefully chosen. Each creative director has done things differently to the one before, but they have all stayed true to Christian Dior's original values.

Can you find the lady in front of the Eiffel Tower?

Who designed this outfit?

Image: © John French



Can you find the butterfly mask?

Who designed this outfit?



Question 7
How many creative directors has the House of Dior had?

The Ateliers

Dior is famous for its 'haute couture' clothing. Haute couture is clothing that is almost entirely sewn by hand by seamstresses and tailors with special training. Each garment is made especially for the person who is buying it and can take hundreds of hours to sew.

To ensure the garment will look good when it is finished, the seamstresses and tailors first make a practice garment in white fabric, called a toile. It is an important step in the making process of the beautiful Dior dresses and haute couture throughout history.

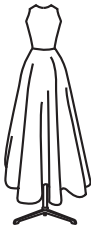
What piece of clothing would you ask the seamstresses and tailors to make for you?



Question 8
How are Couture garments made:
A. In specialist workrooms by hand
B. In a factory by machines
C. By Christian Dior in his home



Match the finished haute couture garment with its fabric and toile.



Diorama

Christian Dior didn't just design dresses, he designed lots of other things that could be worn as well, including shoes, hats, handbags and make-up.

By designing smaller and less expensive things than clothes, Dior enabled many more people have something from his collection.

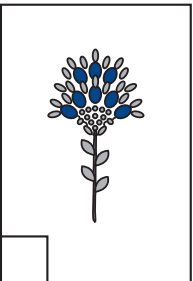
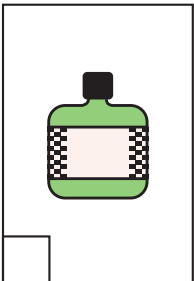
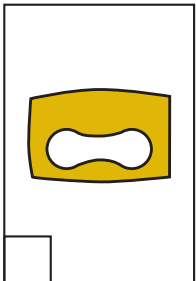
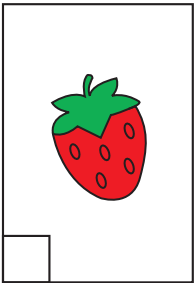
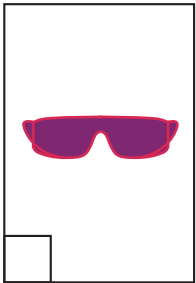
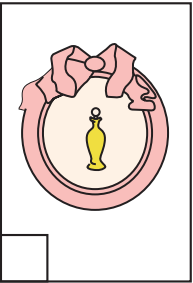
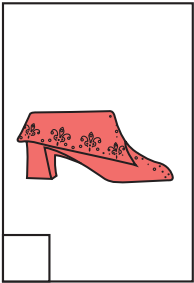
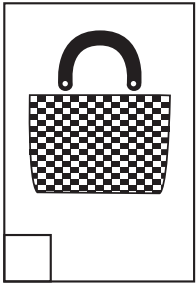
What is your favourite object in the Rainbow display?

★ Dior made make-up for films and TV in the 1970s, including fake blood! You can find it in the red section.

★ Dior designed a special crystal with Swarovski that sparkled like the colours of the rainbow. They named it Aurora Borealis after the northern lights.



Can you find these objects in the Diorama?



Question 9
Who designs the hats for Dior today?
(Hint: hat making is called Millinery)

The Ballroom

Christian Dior loved designing ballgowns, and he made them as beautiful as possible. Dior's haute couture seamstresses used specialist skills to bring his fairy-tale designs to life.

Today the House of Dior is still famous for its fairy-tale ballgowns, and many actors and singers choose to wear Dior to important events.

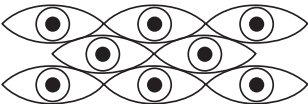
What would you wear to a ball?



Question 10
Which famous singer wore this dress?

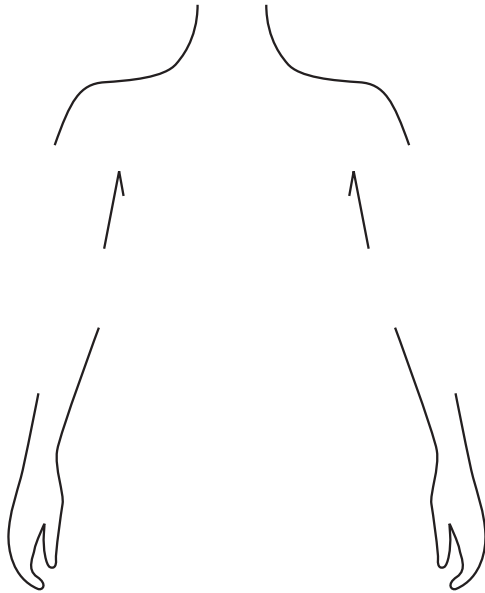


Can you find the dress that looks back at you?





Design your own outfit for a ball

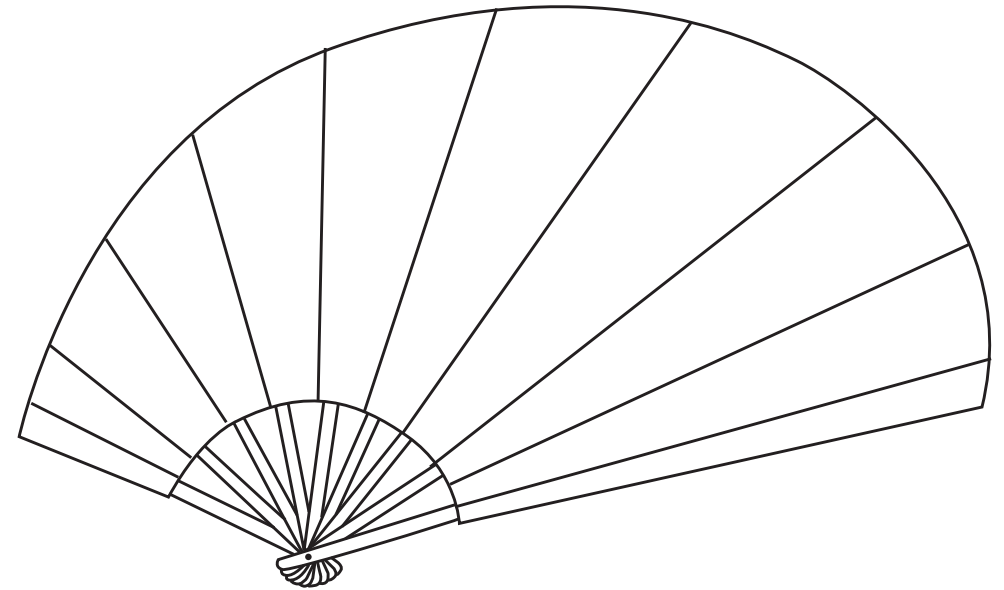


An Enduring Reputation

Christian Dior gave out fans like this one at his fashion shows.



Make your mark as a designer
and sign your own name on the fan!



Quiz answers

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Boxy and masculine | 5. Anubis, the jackal god | 8. A. In specialist workrooms by hand |
| 2. 22 | 6. Lily of the Valley | 9. Stephen Jones |
| 3. Princess Margaret | 7. 6 | 10. Rihanna |
| 4. Empress Eugenie | | |

V&A Families

Enjoy free award-winning family activities. Our ever-changing programme encourages play and learning through the diverse V&A collection and temporary exhibitions.

Most events are free, drop-in and suitable for all the family (unless stated otherwise).

Visit vam.ac.uk/whatson for further details.

Family events inspired by the Dior exhibition:

Drop-in Design: Dior

*Sundays 31 March,
7 & 14 April 2019,
10.30–17.00*

Be inspired by the beauty of the V&A collection and design your own Dior-like garment.

Free, drop in, all ages

With additional thanks to Swarovski

Everyday

Our backpacks and trails are available daily from the Sackler Centre for arts education. Last backpack from 16.00. Hands-on discovery areas can be found throughout the Museum.

Play our online digital games: V&A Secret Seekers; Design a Wig & Terrible Trades.

Weekends

Take part in a Pop-up Performances on Saturdays at 11.00, 13.00 and 15.00 (lasting 30 minutes) or join one of our Drop-in Design workshops on Sundays from 10.30-17.00.

Holidays

Making and performance for all family takes place during the school holidays.