

HISTORY OF COSTUME

Subject Area Aims

This subject area aims to:

- Investigate the history of fashion from the medieval to pre-industrial revolution eras, and how dress determines notions of silhouette, materials and colour.
- Examine costume and dress composites, hair, make-up and accessories, trims, decoration, construction methods, costume functions and markets in an historical context.
- Examine the aesthetic ideal of masculine and feminine beauty with attention to socio-cultural, political and religious characteristics of a particular epoch.
- Trace the evolution of costume and show an understanding of the differences between dress and costume and 'fashion'.

Indicative Subject Area Content:

The Evolution of Costume from the Middle Ages to the early 19th Century: from function to social signifier- politics, class, power, social history. Periods covered:

- **Medieval Costume** (11th to 14th centuries)
 - **Renaissance & Elizabethan Costume** (15th and 16th centuries)
 - **Baroque Costume** (17th century)
 - **Rococo Costume** (18th century)
 - **Empire, Neoclassical and Regency Dress** (late 18th and early 19th centuries)
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