

Living History @ Home

Make a Petticoat (and/or Breeches) Activity



Use these directions to make a petticoat and/or breeches after our *Discover 18th-Century Clothing* program!

Materials:

Petticoat Option 1:

- 1 long skirt

Petticoat Option 2:

- 1 oversized T-shirt
- scissors (optional)

Breeches:

- 1 pair of pants
 - 1 pair of knee-high socks
 - safety pins
- (straight pins, needle and thread, tape, binder clips, or anything else that can be used to hold fabric together also works)

Instructions:

Petticoat Option 1:

1. Put the long skirt on.
2. Congratulations, you're done with your petticoat! (It really is that easy).



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Petticoat Option 2:

1. Start by laying out your oversized T-shirt.



2. Tuck the sleeves (short or long) inside the body of the T-shirt.



3. Stretch out the collar of the shirt (where it would normally go around the neck) to a width that will fit over the wearer's hips. (If the collar is still too tight, you can use scissors to cut along the shoulder seams to make the opening larger).
4. Step into the collar (neck hole) feet first and bring it up to your waist. Ta da! You now have a homemade petticoat.

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Breeches:

1. Start by putting on your chosen pair of pants over your chosen pair of knee-high socks.
2. Roll each pant leg up to so that your calves are exposed but your knees are not.
3. Use safety pins to gather and tighten the fabric just below the knee.



4. Find a mirror to check out yourself wearing breeches!



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Additional Resources:

For those of you who are interested in making or acquiring more polished pieces, please see below for a third DIY petticoat option as well as links to sites where period clothing can be purchased.

Petticoat Option 3:

To make an accurate 18th-century petticoat, you can follow the [Burnley and Trowbridge sew along instructions](#).

1. [Petticoat Sew Along Part 1](#)
2. [Petticoat Sew Along Part 2](#)
3. [Petticoat Sew Along Part 3](#)

Sites where you can order breeches, petticoats, and other colonial reproduction garments readymade:

- Samson Historical (for women's bedgowns and petticoats as well as men's shirts and breeches)
<https://www.samsonhistorical.com/collections/womens-clothing>
- American Duchess Shoes
<https://www.american-duchess.com/womens/shoes-18th-century>
- Fugawee
<https://www.fugawee.com/foot-wear/colonial/womens/>
- Clothing Patterns
https://wmboothdraper.com/Patterns/womens_patterns.htm

Modern interpretation of Colonial clothes for kids (less period accurate but far more economical!):

- Girls
<https://etsy.me/2KK0o3n>
- Boys
<https://etsy.me/2dE8pHc>