

Living History @ Home

Make an 18th Century Outfit!



Use these directions to make an 18th century outfit!

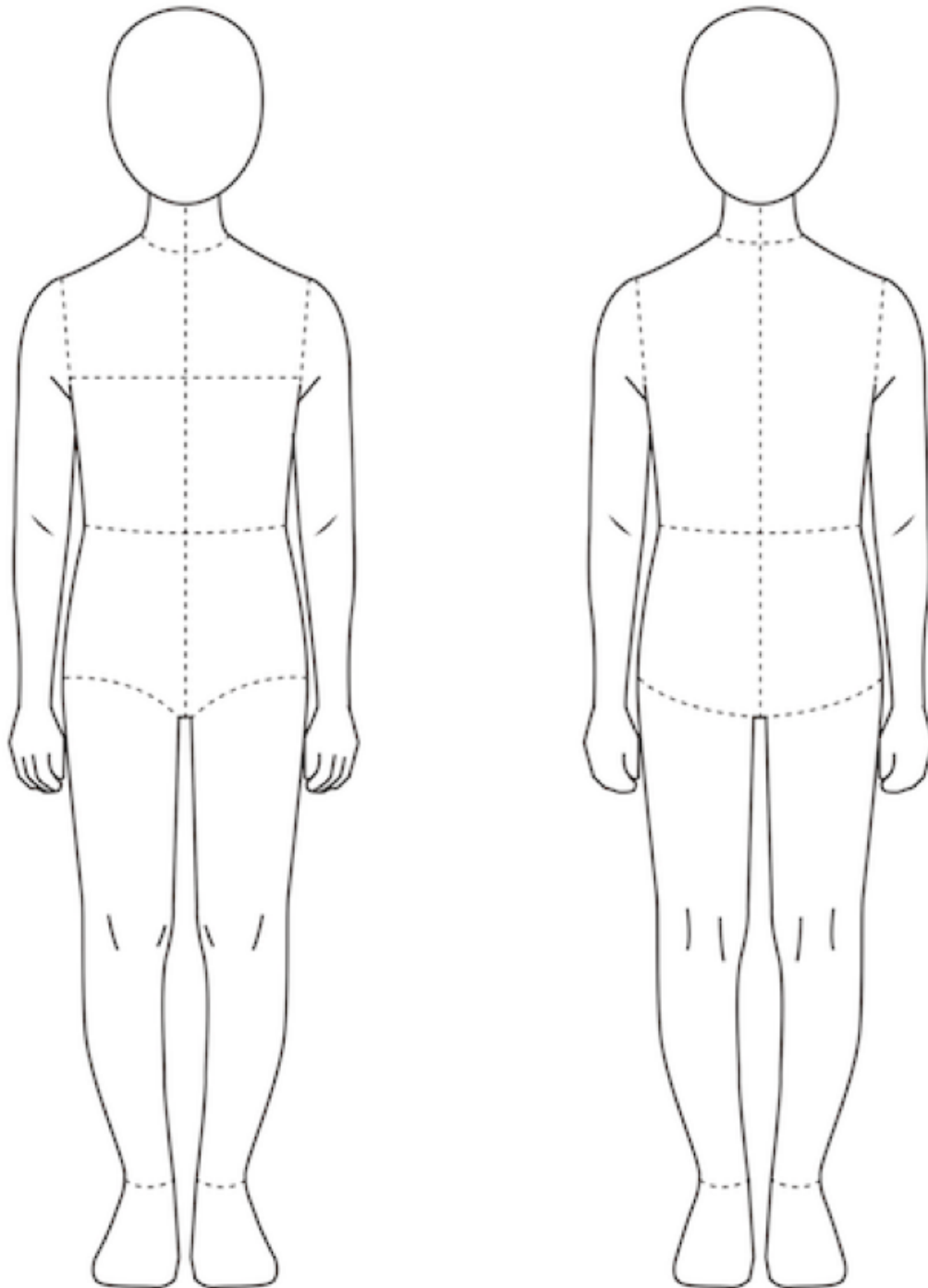
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Design your own 18th century outfit!



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Images to inspire your design!



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Use these directions to make a bedgown!

Materials:

- 1 button-down shirt
(any color; hemp, linen, cotton, and/or wool are most period appropriate)
- an apron that ties around the waist
(a belt, rope, ribbon, or anything else that can circle all the way around your waist also works)
- safety pins
(straight pins, needle and thread, tape, binder clips, or anything else that can be used to hold fabric together also works)

Instructions:

1. Start by laying out your button-down shirt. Then, fold the collar down, tuck it inside, and tack it in place using safety pins.



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2. Next, turn the shirt inside out. Pin the button placket (the edge of the shirt where buttons are sewn) down so that the buttons won't show when the shirt is turned right side out.



3. Pin the seams (where the shirt is sewn together) around where your natural waist (the slimmest part of your torso) is to make it more form fitting. Then, turn the shirt right side out again.



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4. Now, roll the sleeves up on each side. Make sure that the sleeves are not rolled so high that your elbows would peek out when wearing the shirt.



5. Finally, put the shirt on (you can pin it together in front to hold it in place if you'd like) and tie the apron at your natural waist. All done. Head over to a mirror to check yourself out wearing an 18th-century bedgown!



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Use these directions to make a petticoat and/or breeches.

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>

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Use these directions to make 18th century accessories.

Materials:

Men's Cap Option 1:

- 1 beanie
(a tight fitting hat of any kind without a brim works)

Men's Cap Option 2:

- 1 oversized T-shirt
- scissors
- safety pins
(straight pins, needle and thread, tape, binder clips, or anything else that can be used to hold fabric together also works)

Women's Cap:

- 1 piece of fabric that a large circle (roughly 1.5' in diameter) can be cut out of
(a pillowcase, sheet, dish towel, or any other not-too-thick fabric will do; white is most period accurate, but other colors can be used as well)
- scissors
- thin ribbon
(thin string or anything else that can be used to circle all the way around your head works)

Apron:

- 1 piece of rectangular fabric
(a pillowcase, sheet, dish towel, or any other not-too-thick fabric works for this item as well)
- scissors
- safety pins
(straight pins, needle and thread, tape, binder clips, or anything else that can be used to hold fabric)
- string
(a belt, rope, ribbon, or anything else that can circle all the way around your waist works)

Instructions:

Men's Cap Option 1:

1. Put your chosen beanie on.
2. Congratulations, you're done with your men's cap! (Yes, it is that simple).

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Men's Cap Option 2:

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



2. Use your scissors to carefully cut one of the sleeves off (short or long) along the seams.



3. Stretch the larger open end of the sleeve to a width that will fit over the wearer's head. (If the sleeve is too tight, you can use scissors to cut a slit to make the opening larger).
4. Once you are able to comfortably wear the sleeve on your head as a cap, take it off. Then, use your safety pins to close the other side of your sleeve (the side that will not be worn around your head).

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5. Put your cap on. The final step is to tuck and pin the excess fabric of the sleeve in order to style the men's cap on your head to your liking. (Get creative! You can roll, twist, tie, wrap, and more).



Women's Cap:

1. Start by laying out your piece of fabric and tracing a large circle on it (you can use a large dinner plate, frisbee, frying pan, or anything else circular in shape that you can find).

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2. Cut out the circle you traced on your fabric.



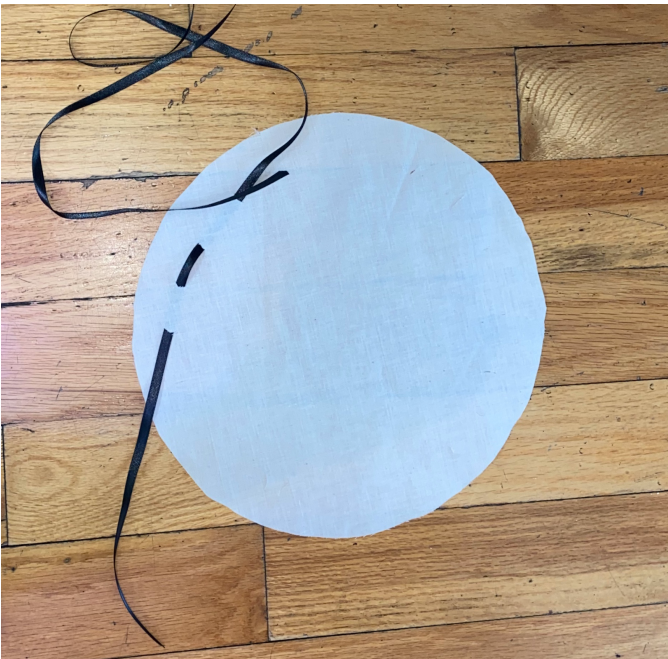
3. Lightly mark out a smaller circle in the center of your cut out circle (the smaller circle should be about 2" smaller all around the edge). Cut small slits at regular intervals (roughly every 2") around the perimeter of the smaller circle.

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4. Weave your thin piece of ribbon through the slits you just cut.



5. Pull the ends of the string together (scrunching the fabric slightly) and tie them into a bow.

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6. Put the completed women's cap on and find a mirror to tuck in stray hairs and check out your reflection!



Apron:

1. Lay out your piece of rectangular fabric and string.

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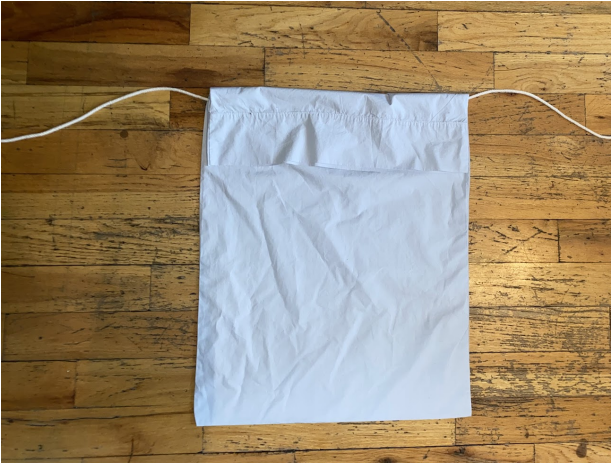


2. Place your string along one of the shorter sides of your fabric (about 3-5" from the top).



3. Fold your fabric over the string so you create a flap with the string inside. Use safety pins to hold the fabric together so the string does not fall out.

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4. Once secured to the fabric, take the ends of the string and tie them around your waist at the small of your back. Voila -- you have an apron!



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Additional Resources:

For those of you who are interested in crafting a tricorn hat (out of paper!), please see below for one final set of accessory instructions.

Materials:

- 2 long strips of cardstock (28" x 4") and 1 short strip of cardstock (14"x4")
(cereal box cardboard and file folders are also good options)
 - stapler (with staples!)
(tape can be used as well)
 - embellishments
(markers, pastels, feathers, stickers, sequins, anything at all!)
-

Instructions:

Tricorn Hat:

1. Start by taking one of the long pieces of cardstock and wrapping it around your head where you would like your tricorn hat to fit.
2. Carefully lift it off your head, still in a circle, and use staples as needed to hold the circle you measured in place (you will want to make sure when you staple to have the flat, not poky, part of the staples facing in toward your head).



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3. Next, lay the second long strip of cardstock and the short strip of cardstock down on a flat surface. Decorate just one side of both strips of cardstock however you'd like.



4. Fold the long strip of paper in half (with the decorated side facing out).
5. Attach the short sides of the decorated long strip of paper and the decorated short strip of paper together with your stapler so that you have a large triangle.
6. Place the circle you made at the start of this activity in the center of the decorated triangle and staple them together (again, with the flat side of the staples facing in).

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7. Put the tricorne hat you've just made on your head (one corner should point straight ahead) and wear it with pride!

