

Fashion Through Time: A Style Adventure!

Grade Level: 2nd Grade

Time Allotment: 45-60 minutes

Introduction (5-10 minutes)

Ask your student: What's your favorite outfit? Why do you like it? Do you think people always dressed the way we do today? Explain that clothing, or fashion, has changed a LOT throughout history! Today, we're going on a time-traveling adventure to see what people wore long ago.

Activity 1: Exploring Fashion History (15-20 minutes)

Show the pictures/printouts of clothing from different historical eras one by one. For each era, discuss:

- **What do you notice about these clothes?** (Colors, shapes, layers, decorations)
- **What materials do you think they used?** (Animal skins, wool, cotton, silk?)
- **Who do you think wore these clothes?** (Kings, queens, regular people, children?)
- **How are these clothes different from what we wear today?**

Keep the comparisons simple. For example:

- **Ancient Egypt:** Simple white linen clothes, sandals, fancy collars. Different from our jeans and t-shirts!
- **Victorian Era:** Long dresses for women, corsets, suits and top hats for men. Very formal!
- **1920s:** Shorter dresses for women ('flapper' style), suits for men, hats. Look how different from the long Victorian dresses!
- **1950s:** Poodle skirts, leather jackets, jeans becoming popular. Getting closer to today!

You can also briefly mention *why* clothes might have changed (e.g., climate, available materials, what people did for work or fun, new inventions like sewing machines).

Activity 2: Design Challenge! (15-20 minutes)

Give the student paper dolls and art supplies (crayons, markers, optional fabric scraps/magazine cutouts). Ask them to choose one or two historical periods they found interesting and design outfits for their paper dolls based on those eras. They can draw directly on the paper doll outlines or cut out clothes from paper/fabric/magazines to glue on.

Encourage creativity while trying to include some elements discussed from the specific time period(s).

Wrap-up & Assessment (5 minutes)

Have the student present their paper doll designs. Ask them:

- Which time period did you choose for this outfit?
- What detail did you include that shows it's from that time?
- What was the most interesting thing you learned about fashion history today?

Review the main idea: Clothing styles change over time and tell us things about the past. Praise their creativity and effort!

Differentiation/Extension:

- **Support:** Focus on just two distinct periods (e.g., Ancient Egypt vs. 1950s). Pre-cut some basic clothing shapes for easier assembly.
- **Challenge:** Ask the student to research another time period online (with supervision) and design an outfit for it, or write a short sentence about why clothing changed between two specific eras. They could also try creating a timeline with the pictures.