

CLOTHING AND TEXTILES INTERMEDIATE PROJECT GUIDE

Unit III. Global/Ethnic Fashion

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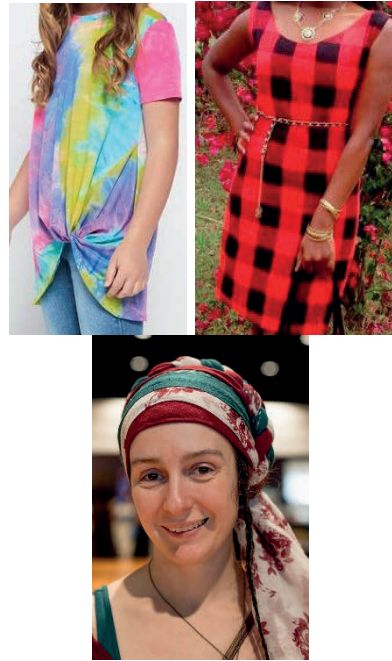


Activity 9 Fashion – What Influences Today’s Styles?

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| Project Outcomes: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify clothing and accessories worn internationally. • Identify and analyze styles and traditions in garments and accessories that have ethnic influences. |
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When you think of what you wear, whether it be for a special occasion or for everyday wear, you may not realize that many of these fashions are influenced by international cultures. In this activity you will learn about clothing and accessories worn by different cultures and discover Western fashions that have been influenced by international fashions.

It’s no secret that the world’s fashion trends blend together now more than ever, with social media linking us to the fantastic fashions from across the globe. Many of the stylish trends we follow are derived from the aesthetics and traditions of many cultures outside the West, all which integrate and enrich our sense of fashion.



To Get Started:

Look in your closet/drawers and pull out any of the following items that you own and describe their color, silhouette, length, etc. below:

1. Dress or blouse with bright floral design

2. Dress or blouse with embroidery

3. Tie-dyed garment

4. Garment made of bright colored plaids

5. Poncho

6. Jewelry made of bright colored beads

These are just some of the fashions and accessories whose origins come from other cultures.

Ponchos

Ponchos and poncho capes have been in and out of style for the past few years, but it's no secret that they are truly unique statement pieces. They originated in South America, from places like Mexico, Chile, Brazil and Argentina. Historians still debate the exact origin of the poncho but they know they were popularized by the Mapuche civilization of Chile. Originally woven meticulously by the Mapuche as an article of clothing to keep warm in the colder seasons, the designs etched into the ponchos sometimes held significant meaning. A poncho's step-diamond pattern, for example, meant that the wearer had authority.



Peruvian Poncho-Made of Alpaca Wool



Today's Fashion

Inspiration from Mexico

Many different influences for fashion have come out of Mexico and continue to do. Historically, Mexicans wore vibrant colors, with floral embroidery features as well as strip patterns. Skirts were flared and ankle or knee length. Blouses were white with heavy embroidery. Today these garments are worn on special occasions and festivals.



Typical dress from five regions of Oaxaca, Mexico



Today's Fashion

To Do: Imagine you wanted to design a dress that had Mexican influence. Describe what that garment would be like (silhouette, colors, placement of embroidery, length, etc.) Then sketch the dress in the space provided.

Description of Mexican influenced dress design:	SKETCH OF DRESS
Color of fabric	
Colors of embroidery threads	
Placement of Embroidery	
Length	
Silhouette (full/form fitting)	
Other features	

Boots

Mukluks are a longtime favorite in colder countries like Canada. This boot was designed by the Inuit people in the Arctic. Mukluks are watertight soft boots with the sole made of sealskin and the top of caribou skin. Designed hundreds of years ago for practical reasons, today's version, the Ugg boot, provides warmth and fashion. Read more at www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/mukluk.



Mukluks



Ugg Boots

Head Ties

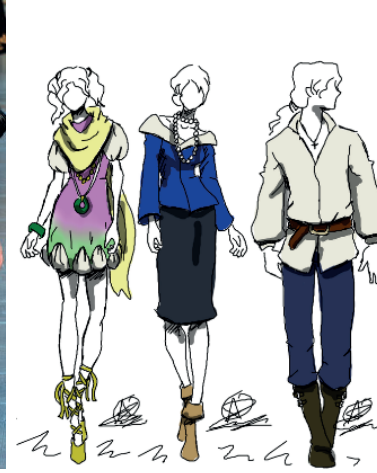
Where did they originate? Did head ties just show up? No, they didn't certainly didn't. They came from South Africa and are referred to as gele, tukwi, and duku. The head tie is used as a fashion accessory but also for function. According to Helen Bradley, author of *New Raiments of Self: African American Clothing in the Antebellum South*, the headwrap originated in sub-Saharan Africa. Bradley also says that during times of slavery in the United States, African Americans would wear them to show courage and remember their homeland. It served as a uniform of communal identity and a uniform of rebellion since millions of women resisted the loss of their self-definition. Now, you can see head ties pretty much wherever you go and around the world in different variations.



Nigerian-Gele Variation on Head Ties

Medieval Dress

Many popular movies and TV series portray life during Medieval times and have influenced today's fashions. Some of the features of dress during that time include layered clothing featuring fitted garments with wide sleeves and shoulder emphasis. Men wore belted tunics. The fabric used and embellishments were more lavish for those of higher social status. Today's designers have interpreted the fashions of the Medieval era in many different ways.



Medieval Garments

Today's Fashions

To Do

There are many international influences on our current fashion. Match the following fashions with the culture from which the fashion is influenced.

Today's Fashion



Traditional Garment/Fabric and Country




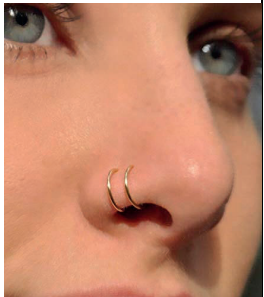




To learn more about these and other cultural influences of today's fashion, visit:
theculturetrip.com/asia/south-korea/articles/hanbok-an-introduction-to-south-koreas-national-dress/; www.heroine.com/the-editorial/history-of-tie-dye;
www.thefashionhistorian.com/2011/04/maasai.html

Answers: 1. Kenya; 2. Thailand; 3. South Korea; 4. China

To Do

There are many other cultures that influence the fashions we wear today. Do additional research on the following accessories to find out more.

Accessory and Source	Country or Culture	Today's Fashion
Turquoise Jewelry www.powwows.com/native-american-turquoise-jewelry-through-history-and-today/	 Navajo/Native American	
Nose Ring medium.com/@info.migrationmantra/nose-rings-for-hindu-girls-religion-and-cultural-practices-and-beliefs-d56294bd7f5a	 India	
Beaded Necklaces www.thefashionhistorian.com/2011/04/maasai.html	 Maasai/Kenya	

medium.com/@fashinscoop/indian-culture-influence-on-international-fashion-880cfd09a153

Congratulations!

You have now completed the third unit of the Intermediate Clothing and Textiles Project Area Guide. Throughout this project guide, you have learned more about the things you need to be successful in this project.

More information can be found on the Tennessee 4-H Clothing and Textiles project page, including the project outcomes. You are now ready to move on to the fourth unit of this project, Caring for My Clothes (Care and Maintenance).



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