

ART from the PAST

PROJECTS

FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

Looking Good

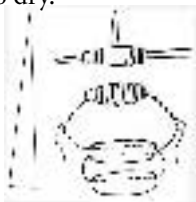
Fashion Rules! Whether showing prestige or power, displaying wealth, attracting attention or being comfortable, people always want to look their best. With artistic care & a sense of style, people throughout the ages have designed & decorated shoes, jewelry, belts & clothing.

Egyptian Jewelry

Wesekh Collar; Egypt
Saite Period, 664-525 BC
Faience, l: 54cm
The Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum; RC 1773

The popular beaded *wesekh* collar was worn as jewelry by both ancient Egyptian kings & ordinary people. Falcon-headed clasps joined beads of gold, gemstones & glass. After death, the *wesekh* collars protected mummies in coffins, keeping them adorned through time.

- ◆ Make beads by cutting long paper triangles from magazines.
- ◆ Starting with wide end, wrap paper around a toothpick. Glue final tip to bead. Slip bead off to dry.
- ◆ Thread wire needles & insert into opposite ends of each bead as shown. Continue stringing to desired length.



Smiling Figure

The ancient *Smiling Figures* of Veracruz, Mexico show a connection to dance, music & joy. Dressed in beaded necklaces & clothing, with sparkling smiles & outstretched arms, the ceramic figures have a spirit of vitality & well-being.

- ◆ Bend wire to create a stick figure.
- ◆ Wrap wire with newspaper strips dipped in thinned glue. Use paper towels for last strips. Let figure dry.
- ◆ Recreate fashions from the past with fabric scraps, paper & ribbons. Dress figure in a kimono, toga or tunic. Have fun!



Mexico, Central Veracruz, Remojadas
Standing Figure
A.D. 600-900; Ceramic with slip
Height 10 1/16 in. (25.55 cm)
Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Gift of Constance McCormick Fearing; AC1996.146.39
Photograph © 2006 Museum Associates/LACMA

Finger Weaving

Native Americans wove sashes to add color to ceremonial costumes. They finger wove hand spun wool in complex braiding techniques. In the 1700's these belts were traded to voyageur fur traders for manufactured goods.

- ◆ Try finger weaving paper strips. Tape down ends of 6-10 thin paper strips.

- ◆ Fold first strip across others & weave it over & under. At far edge, fold down parallel to strips.



- ◆ Repeat process with next strips. Tape new strips to short ends to extend length.
- ◆ Use weaving for bookmark, hatband or bracelet.



Sue Robishaw; American
Finger Woven Sash; Wool; 80" x 3"
www.ManyTracks.com

Look in the Mercury News

Find people that are "looking good" because they are happy, healthy or dressed in favorite clothes.

Look for fashions adapted to different styles of work & play.

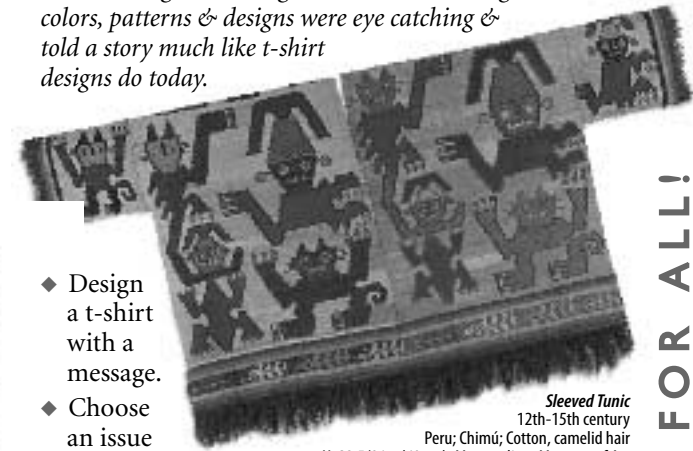


Student Drawing, Amy C, Grade 5

England; *Pair of Shoes*; Circa 1720
Silk satin, metallic thread lace, wood, leather, silk
9 1/4 x 2 3/4 x 4 1/2 in.; (23.49 x 6.98 x 11.43 cm) each
Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Mrs. Alice F. Schott Bequest; M.67.8.142a-b; Photograph © 2006 Museum Associates/LACMA

Peruvian Tunic

Ancient Peruvian weavers were experts at conveying political, social or religious messages in their textile designs. The colors, patterns & designs were eye catching & told a story much like t-shirt designs do today.



Sleeved Tunic
12th-15th century
Peru; Chimú; Cotton, camelid hair
H. 23 5/8 in. (60 cm); Metropolitan Museum of Art
The Michael C. Rockefeller Memorial Collection
Bequest of Nelson A. Rockefeller, 1979
(1979.206.588)

- ◆ Design a t-shirt with a message.
- ◆ Choose an issue you support. Pick a symbol & words to convey the idea.
- ◆ Brainstorm designs. Simplify. Pick your best idea & draw it on t-shirt with permanent markers.

Ancient Shoes

Shoes have always been useful, decorative & prestigious. They have protected baby toes of young American children, added sparkles to British dancing feet & decorated tiny bound feet of Chinese women. What's special about your shoes?

- ◆ Observe your shoe closely & carefully draw its contours.
- ◆ Move your eye & pen together, recording every edge, bump & crease.
- ◆ Mount your picture on black paper for a shoe show.



Friendship Book of Styles

The *Album Amicorum* is a kind of autograph book from the late 1600's. Traveling European students collected signatures & pictures from friends & famous people. Illustrations included emblems, scenes & costumes that give a glimpse into fashion trends.

- ◆ Look around at your friends. With colored pencils, draw their fashions to capture personal style. Pay close attention to color schemes, patterns & clothing.
- ◆ Collect drawings into your own friendship book.

