

A brief history of clothes

For hundreds of years children's clothes in Europe didn't change much. Clothes stayed the same from the fifth to the twelfth century. Boys in the twelfth century wore a short tunic with a belt and trousers. Girls wore trousers with a long dress on top.

From the fourteenth century girls wore a dress with a belt, and a cap on their head. They often wore aprons to keep their dresses clean. Boys wore a shirt, a belt, trousers and boots or pointed shoes. Poor children didn't always have shoes.

From the sixteenth to the eighteenth century children wore the same clothes as men and women. The girls wore long dresses. The boys wore dresses too until they were seven years old. Then they wore a shirt, a jacket and short trousers called breeches, with long socks and shoes. Until the end of the nineteenth century most children had only one new dress or shirt a year.

After 1900 there were many different fashions. The boy wearing a cap, shorts, a shirt and a jacket lived in the twentieth century. This is his school uniform. He is ready to go to school. The twenty-first century girl is wearing a T-shirt, skirt and trainers. These are her casual clothes.



Answer the questions.

- 1 Did fashion change from the fifth to the twelfth century?
- 2 When did boys wear a short tunic with a belt and trousers?
- 3 Did girls and women wear the same fashion in the seventeenth century?
- 4 How old were boys when they wore trousers in the eighteenth century?
- 5 How many new dresses did girls have a year in the nineteenth century?
- 6 Did fashion change much in the twentieth century?