



UNITED NATION'S DAY 2009  
Grade 6: Ancient Greece  
Costume Guidelines



Dear Parents: It is that time of year already...United Nation's Day! Here are some guidelines to help you create your child's costume for this festive day (Friday, October 30). Please remember these things:

- Low Stress – Allow yourself enough time.
- Low Cost – Borrow items if possible.
- Be Creative – Not everyone has to look identical, create a look that is unique for your child
- Age Appropriate – Make sure the costume is comfortable, allows for movement and is modest.

### Girls:

Greek style tunic (see attached sheet for ideas)

White, beige, pink, black, maroon, purple, etc.

Knee length or longer

Both shoulders must be covered to insure no slippage

Wear a camisole style t-shirt under costume

Wear a slip underneath costume (when the sun shines brightly many costumes become very see through)

Sandals with back straps (lace up sandals tend to come undone during dance)

Hair may be worn down or swept up

Accessory suggestions

Belt – rope, decorative braiding, gold or silver

Jewelry

Laurel wreath

Make-up if parents approve

### Boys:

Greek style tunic (see attached sheet for ideas)

White, beige, black, maroon, brown, purple, etc.

Knee length or longer

Both shoulders must be covered

Wear a coordinating colored t-shirt and shorts under costume

Sandals with back straps (no flip-flops)

Headpiece or Laurel Wreath



# Clothing



## Historical Aid



The clothing worn by the ancient Greeks was similar in shape for both men and women and changed little in design for hundreds of years.

The basic dress was a straight tunic called a *chiton* (kī'-ton). Made from a single rectangle of cloth, a chiton was cut into two pieces, pinned at intervals from the neck to the elbow and gathered at the waist with a belt. Another piece of material might be draped over the top to make a cloak called a *himation* (hī mat ē on). Workmen, soldiers and boys wore their tunics short while women, girls and older men wore a longer style.

The bright colors favored by the Greeks were created with dyes made from certain plants, sea snails and plant larva. Clothing was often edged with with a colorful stripe or with a "key" pattern.

## Project

Experience wearing clothing similar to that worn by the ancient Greeks.

## Materials

- Large pieces of fabric or old, solid color sheets or large paper tablecloths
- Scissors
- Crayons
- Safety pins or pins made from directions on pages 10-11

## Directions

1. Cut fabric into two lengths as long as the wearer is tall and about 36 inches (90 cm) wide. Cut additional fabric into long strips for belt and headband.
2. Decorate the hem in a key pattern with a crayon.
3. To wear: Pin the two pieces of fabric together at the shoulders and at intervals down the sleeves. Tie with a belt. Belts were worn high or at the waist depending on the current fashion. Sometimes two belts were worn with the fabric gently pulled out a bit between them.
4. Make a headpiece by tying a fabric strip around the head. Girls may wish to crisscross their headband or make a headdress from the directions on pages 34-35.



# LOOK YOUR BEST

Illustrated by SUE SHIELDS

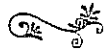


**T**HE GREEK NEWS's top fashion tips have always kept you right up-to-date and looking good! Here's a selection of those styles that have proved to be classics over the years.

## ■ LADIES

By far the most elegant tunic is the long-sleeved chiton, made of the finest Egyptian linen, fastened along the arms, and belted at the waist into graceful folds.

But the old sleeveless tunic has proved to be a timeless favorite. It's so easy to wear—you just pin it at the shoulder. And you can spin the wool for it at home.



Everyone notices a carefully crafted piece of

jewelry. So it's worth saving up for a few expensive gold or silver pieces. They can make the world of difference to a simple tunic.



For an unusual effect, choose a hairpin carved into a leaf or a flower, or a bracelet made in the shape of a snake.

## ■ GENTLEMEN

All men wear the same basic tunic, of course, but do keep yours long, at least to the knee. A short tunic is worn only by laborers, who have to make sure it doesn't get in the way when working.

For a truly stylish look, wrap your cloak around your body and drape one end of it casually over your shoulder.



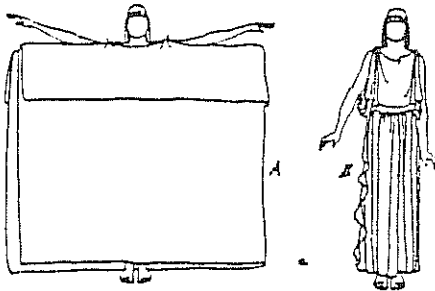
Although the fashion for beards and long hair has gone a little out of style in recent years, many people still think that it looks manly. And long hair can be tied back neatly with a clasp if it gets in the way.



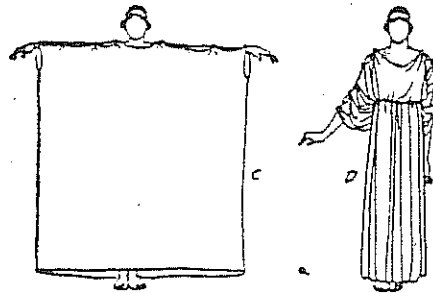
## TOUCH OF CLASS

■ LADIES—your skin should be as pale as possible to set you apart from women who work outdoors all day. If you need to, lighten your skin with white powder.

■ GENTLEMEN—aim for a light tan so you don't look like a craftworker who stays indoors. But be careful! Too dark, and you'll be mistaken for a farm slave.



The Dorian chiton



The Ionian chiton

## STAY YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL

Powder to whiten your skin.  
Rouge for the rosy-cheeked, youthful look.  
All sold in elegant pots and jars.



Beauty Shop,  
PRIENE

## Greek Fashions

**T**he Greeks wore loose, simple clothing to keep cool and comfortable. Both men and women wore a tunic called a *chiton* (KY tuhn). It was made from rectangular cloth and fastened at the shoulders with brooches, or pins. Women wore ankle-length chitons; men wore short tunics for work and long ones for formal occasions.