

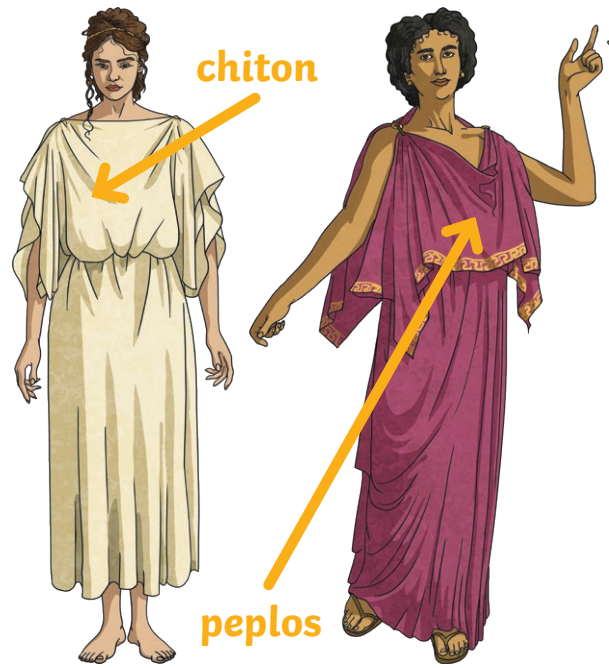
# Clothing

## Types of Tunics

Clothing in ancient Greek times was very simple. It was usually made from one or more pieces of fabric pinned or buttoned around the body in different ways. Both men and women wore tunics.

The main two types of tunic were the peplos and the chiton. The main difference between these tunics was that the peplos was made from a piece of material that was formed into a sort of tube around the body. The peplos had an extra layer of material folded over at the top.

Both types of tunics could be styled and pinned in various ways. Belts were usually added as well and women often wore brooches.



## What Were They Made From?

Peploses and chitons were usually made from wool or linen. Wool was more popular in the winter and linen was preferred in the hot summers. Men would rarely wear clothing made of wool in the summer as it was the men who left the house to go outside, whereas women spent nearly all of their time in the home.

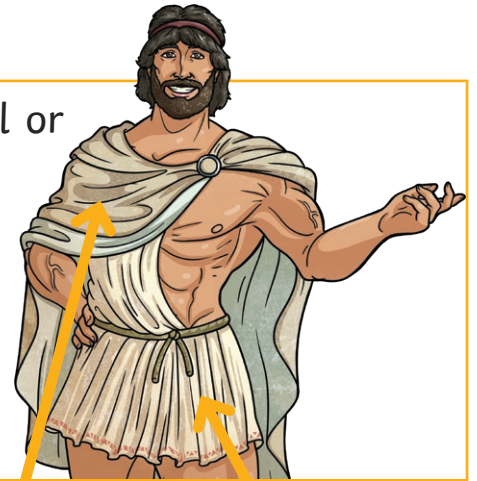
## What Did Men and Women Wear?

Women would wear a long peplos or chiton that almost touched the ground as the ancient Greeks felt that women should always be covered up. Men generally wore knee-length chitons and would wear it over one or both of their shoulders. Many children spent a lot of their time naked but sometimes they would wear a basic cloth around their waist.

## The Himation

Both men and women also sometimes wore a shawl or wrap over the top of their tunic called a himation.

The himation was often made of wool and was mostly worn in the colder months. For soldiers, this item of clothing would also be used as a blanket to keep them warm at night.



himation

chiton

## What Colour Were Their Clothes?

Ancient Greek statues often show people wearing chitons, peploses and himations and, because Greek statues were often made of white marble, this makes people think that the ancient Greeks only wore white clothing. In fact, the clothes they wore were many different colours and often the fabrics used for their clothing had patterns too. Purple was the most desirable colour for ancient Greeks because it was linked to royalty. Purple dye was difficult to get hold of and very expensive. Poorer people tended to wear green, brown and grey clothing.

## Did You Know...?

Purple dye was made and imported to ancient Greece from the city of Tyre in the country now called Lebanon. It was made from a combination of sea water, urine and ink taken from the bladders of many murex snails! Alexander the Great's army conquered Tyre in 332 BC and it then became part of his empire.



## Shoes

Many ancient Greeks wore sandals or boots. However, some ancient Greeks, especially enslaved people and poor people, went their whole life without ever wearing any shoes. Women sometimes wore soft shoes that went on like a sock called a sykhos, which is where the English word for socks originates.

