



Suitable for  
Ages 8+

Branch  
session



A good source of information about ancient clothing is through sculptures and vase painting. Of course, most clothes rot over time, so we have very few actual examples of fabric from the ancient world.

Time  
Required:  
1 hour

## You Will Need:

1 sheet (about half the size of a double bed sheet), 2 big safety pins, kilt pins or brooches, a length of cord for the belt



## Activity:

This activity is a problem-solving game. It works best if you work in groups of two or three. Rich people in the ancient world would have had a slave to help them get dressed each day.

Decide in your group who will be the master or mistress and who will be the slave(s) (you might want to change over to give everybody a try).

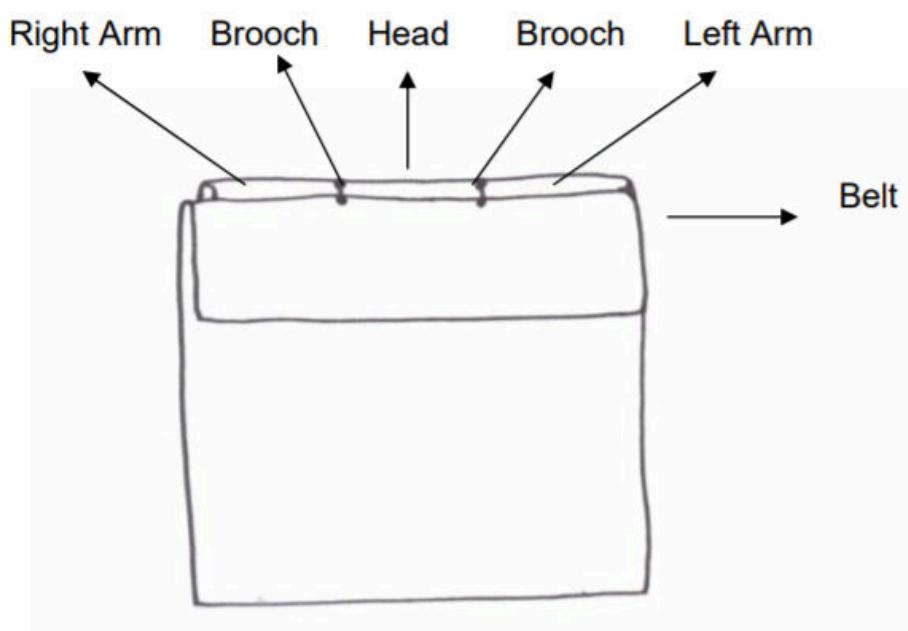
In your team, you will need to dress your master or mistress. The main difference between men's and women's



clothing is that the man's tunic was shorter than the woman's. Each team has a sheet, two pins and a belt. If you want to make it more difficult, you could race against teams to see who can get dressed first. Using the card on the next page, the 'slaves' should dress their mistress or master in a Greek-style peplos.

## Getting Dressed Action Card

Take a sheet, two brooches or pins and a belt or cord and fold, pin and tie like this:



**Note:** the right-hand side of the dress is open and needs to be discreetly wrapped around the body before tying with the belt or cord! The brooches should sit on the shoulders. Use the same pattern for a boy's tunic but make the 'dress' knee-length instead.



## Questions



- Did you find this activity easy or difficult? Did you need to work as a team?
- What problems did you encounter? How did you solve the problems?
- Did you need help to get dressed in a peplos, or do you think you could do it on your own?
- Can you make your friend look like the statue of Artemis picture in this pack?
- What other kinds of dresses and tunics can you make from your sheet? Maybe you could try a fashion show and vote on your favourites!

## Research Opportunities



- Try and find some different pictures of ancient clothing – statues, vase paintings, wall paintings. Can you work out how the clothes were made? Can you copy them using your sheet and pins?
- What cultures in the world today can you think of that have similar kinds of clothing? You could invite somebody in to show you different kinds of ethnic dress people wear in your community.



## Useful Websites

- To see what Roman civilians wore, have a look at the pictures from the Roman reenactment group the Ermine Street Guard:  
<http://www.esg.ndirect.co.uk/cov/index.htm>
- For a selection of statues and vase paintings try searching on:  
[www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/childrenscompass/](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/childrenscompass/)
- Anglo-Saxon clothes:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/anglosaxons/life/lifeind3.shtml> Iron Age Celts' clothes:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/celts/factfile/clothes.shtml>

