

Headwear

Historical Aid

Throughout medieval times, hats were often worn to indicate social status. Head coverings worn by the lower classes, as they toiled in the fields, provided much needed protection from harsh weather. Kings and church officials wore headwear to indicate their position of authority. And, of course, knights wore armor to protect their heads in combat.

During the 1100s and 1200s women wore metal hair nets, veils and draped throat covers called *wimples* which were worn with various hood-like coverings. Men wore hoods that had long tails called *liripipes*. By the 1300s people began to wear hats for decoration resulting in a large variety of hat styles. Eastern influences resulted in hats that resembled turbans. During the 1400s many European women wore a tall cone-shaped hat with a streaming veil.

Project

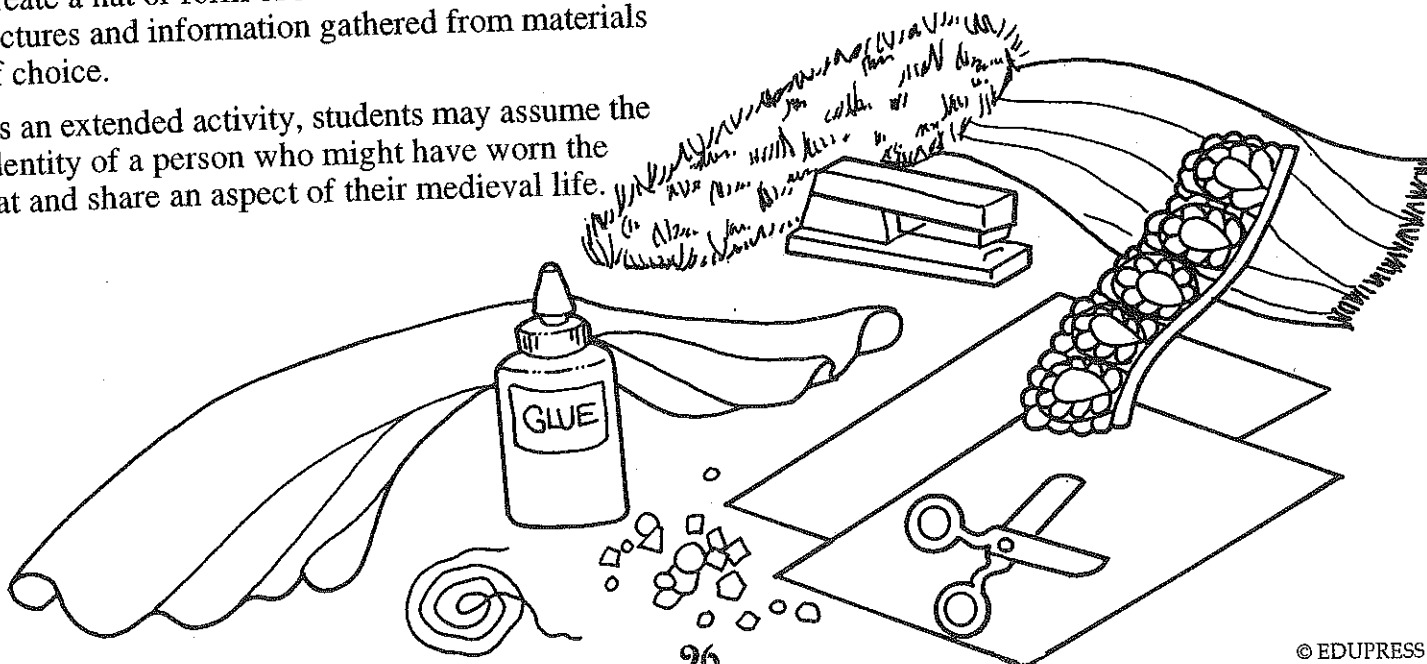
Design a medieval head covering based on historical information.

Materials

- Medieval Headwear information page, following
- Assorted fabrics
- Trims such as fur, sequins and lace
- Pliable wire
- White glue and tacky glue
- Stapler
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Illustrated books about medieval times

Directions

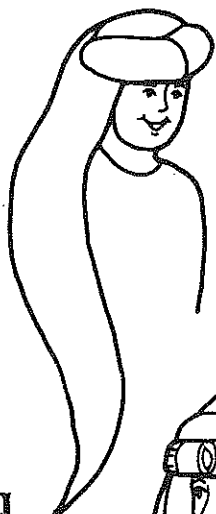
1. Reproduce and give each child a copy of the Medieval Headwear information page. Review its contents. They may look through books for other ideas, too.
2. Create a hat or form of headwear based on the pictures and information gathered from materials of choice.
3. As an extended activity, students may assume the identity of a person who might have worn the hat and share an aspect of their medieval life.



Medieval Headwear

Troubadour

This hat of cloth with a rolled band and sometimes a long tail was worn by troubadours, jesters and other entertainers.



Ladies in Waiting

Attendants to the lady of the manor wore a cloth draped over their head and held in place with a rolled fabric band. Embroidery and jewels were sometimes added.



Noble Woman

Jewel-encrusted metal hair nets were fashioned to fit over the top and sides of the head.



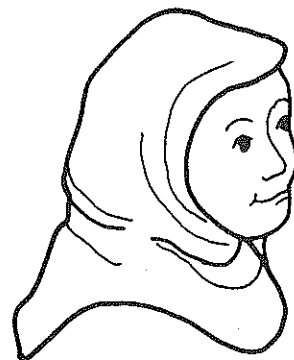
Women of the Realm

A cone shaped hat called a *hennin* was worn during the 1400s. It measured from 3 to 4 feet (0.9 to 1.2 meters) high and had a long, floating veil.



Villein

The hard-working villeins (peasants and castle servants) protected their heads with draped fabric or caps.



Lord and Lady

Decorative fabric hats were rolled and stacked resembling turbans. Fur, jewels and lace-like trims were added for further decoration.



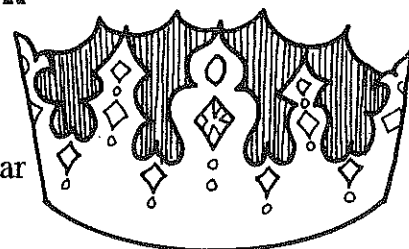
Page

A boy of noble birth, training to become a knight, wore a hat similar to an upside down bowl.



King and Queen

A royal crown was worn as a symbol of supreme authority. This circular headwear was usually made of gold, engraved and ornamented with precious gems.



Clothing

Historical Aid

Men and women of the early Middle Ages wore simple tunics, called *surcoats*, made from linen or wool. A knight wore a sleeved undertunic of linen or wool, reaching below the knees. Over this was a sleeveless tunic, open at the sides and fastened with a belt. Men wore loose breeches or long stockings of bright colors under their tunics. The woman's tunic developed into a long dress with oversized armholes and worn over a long-sleeved gown. Cloaks were often worn over the tunics.

Clothes for the wealthy became more colorful in the 1300s. Dozens of buttons decorated the outer garments. The surcoat was edged with fur. The sleeves buttoned tightly from wrist to elbow. Jeweled felt hats and capes lined in fur were popular. Shoes became so pointed that the front was curled up and fastened to the knee with a small jeweled chain.

Project

Make a decorated surcoat for boys *and* girls.

Materials

- Pillowcase
- Scissors
- Turtleneck shirt or t-shirt
- Fabric markers or paints
- Buttons
- Fake fur (optional)
- Needle and thread

Directions

1. Cut two armholes and a neck hole from the sides and stitched end of a pillowcase.
2. Draw or paint a design or crest on the front. Stitch or glue buttons and/or fur trim.
3. Wear the surcoat over a turtleneck or t-shirt. Wear a leather belt around the waist.

