

# Costume Design for Families

AT HOME

## Resource 1





**This resource will help you and your family to learn about costume and the work of a costume designer.**

## **Inside you will find:**

- **Discussion Topics**
- **Learning resources and research activities**
- **Information on how to use our printable costume design templates for an activity at home**

# Discuss!

Why don't you work together to answer the questions below?

## 1. What is a costume?

*Hint: Every film, t.v. and theatre character wears one.*

## 2. Why do actors wear costumes?

*Hint: Imagine watching a film where the actor was wearing their own clothes instead of a costume!*

## 3. What is a costume designer?

*Hint: Costumes don't appear out of thin air. They are either made from scratch, bought in a store and altered, or a combination of both.*

## 4. How is costume design different from fashion design?

*Hint: Who wears costumes and who wears fashion?*



# Discuss!

Want to know more about what designers do during the creation of costumes?

## Step 1.

**Costume designers must read the script and get to know all the characters.**

### **Why might they do this?**

*The clothes we wear tell a lot about us. They reflect our personalities, our tastes, where we live, and what we do every day. A costume designer must know these details about a character in order to make their costume realistic and believable.*

## Step 2.

**Costume designers work with other people such as the director, set designers, and actors.**

### **Why do they meet with other members of the crew?**

*Costume designers must work with other members of the film team to make sure that all the different parts of the film work together. The director has the overall vision for the film and knows how it should look. From this, set designers work on creating the background. The costumes must fit in with that. Actors have a vision for the character's personality and this might influence what they wear.*

## Step 3.

**Research is a really important part of costume design.**

### **Why must costume designers carry out research? What kind of research might they do? Where might they go to gather research?**

*Costume designers must carry out research to make sure the costumes are realistic and help create believable characters. In order to do this, they must find sources that tell them what life at a certain time or in a specific place was like. Keep reading to find out more about the research process!*

# Research!

**Costume designers do many different kinds of research. They visit museum collections and libraries to find out about particular historic periods. They may go to a different country to find out about a fictional character's culture or even visit a work place to learn about their job. Have a go at doing some research yourself!**

The following pages contain information from the *Best Costume Goes To...* exhibition, Hunt Museum resources, and object research activities which will help you work like a costume designer.



**To look up objects in Hunt Museum Permanent Collection online, use this link and enter the *object registration number*:**

**<https://www.huntmuseum.com/the-collection>**

# Vikings

Find & name these Viking objects in our collection:

- HCA 637
- HCA 452

**Costume from 'Vikings' the T.V. show.**

*2013, designed by Joan Bergin, CC-BY-SA-NC*

What can you tell about the character who wore this costume?



Shoes



Shield

**Costume from 'Vikings' the T.V. show.**

*2013, designed by Joan Bergin, CC-BY-SA-NC*

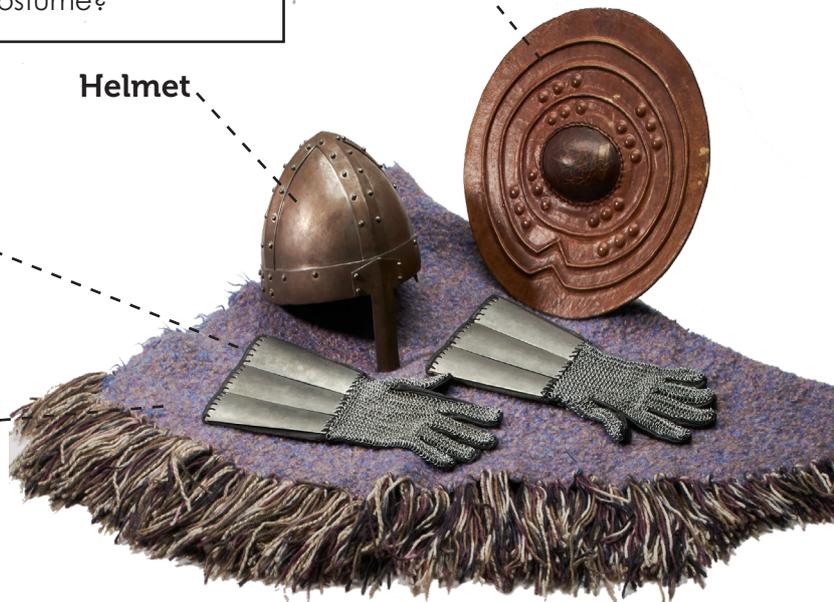
What can you tell about the character who wore this costume?



Brooch

Helmet

Chainmail gloves



Woollen cloak



## FACT!

Did you know that a viking sail boat was called a **drakkar**.  
Get an adult to help you look them up online!

**Why don't you have a go at drawing a drakkar?**

Use this tutorial to complete this activity:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEQn3vMD05g>

# Medieval Period

Find & name these Medieval objects in our collection:

- **HCA 637**

Bonus Question: What is pictured on this object?

- **HCA 452**

Bonus Question: What is the function of this object?



**Replica Medieval dress and hat**

How are these clothes different from clothing we wear today?

**Replica Medieval knight's costume**

What do you think was the function of this costume?



**More images of Medieval Knights**

Image from:  
<https://www.ancient.eu>  
CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

## BONUS TASK:

With the help of an adult to do online research, look up what was involved in becoming a knight. What personal traits did they need to succeed?

# Georgian Period

Find & name these Georgian objects in our collection:

- **DG 108**
- **MG 106**

**Costume from 'Love and Friendship' the film.**

2016, designed by Eimer Ní Mhaoldomhnaigh,  
Photographer: Brendan Walsh CC-BY-SA-NC

What can you tell about the character who wore this costume?



**The Artist and His Wife by Robert Fagan**

Painting featuring Georgian men's wear

View the full painting by searching  
**MG 146** on the Hunt Museum's website.



**Replica Georgian pannier dress**

**FACT:** The panniers on these dresses were so wide that they led to the introduction of double doors in buildings.

**Like these ones in the Hunt Museum**

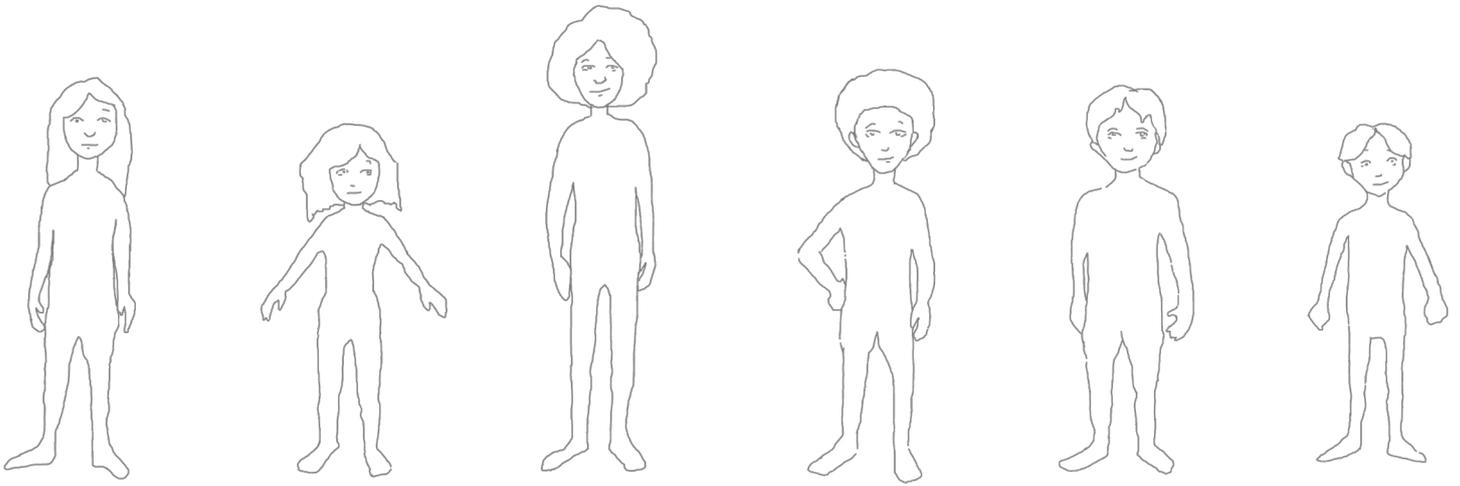


Did you know that the Hunt Museum is a Georgian building?

Try to locate it on this map of Limerick and see if you can recognise any other Georgian buildings:

<http://www.limerickcity.ie/media/architecture,%20georgian%200032.pdf>  
(Georgian Street Map, jointly produced by Limerick Civic Trust and FAS)





## Activity Instructions

*Use Resource 2 to do the following*

1. Print Resource 2
2. Cut out the paper dolls
3. Design their costumes by decorating the templates included in Resource 2 or create your own from scratch using the blank mannequins.

### Further Activities

- Why don't you get a blank sheet of paper and paint a backdrop for your characters?
- Write a story for your characters in this scene.

