

Boys' and Girls' Clothes

Boys' Clothes

Boys wore loose, long-sleeved shirts and pants. Their breeches were sometimes made of deer skin that stretched too big when they became wet, and shrunk too small when it dried. A vest was usually worn, too, and was made of deer skin or wool. Boys wore dark-colored, knitted socks that came up to their hips, worn beneath their pants. They always wore something on their heads, too, like wool knit caps or wide-brimmed hats.

PARENTS WERE ADVISED to make boys sleep without nightcaps to make them hardy. Also, parents wet their children's feet in cold water to make their feet tough.

☉ Make a quick outfit for yourself. Wear a long-sleeved shirt, roll your pants up to your knees. Cut a *band* (collar) from white construction paper and tape it loosely around your neck. Make a vest from a brown grocery sack by cutting an opening along one full side, cutting holes for your arms, and cutting out a big circle at the bottom so your vest will rest on your shoulders. Find a knit cap to put on your head or cut a large sock in half to make one.

Girls' Clothes

Girls wore long dresses with tightly-laced belts, called *bodices*. Girls wore long aprons—a white cloth wrapped around their neck and shoulders and fastened with a pin—just like their mothers, and a cap on their heads.

☉ To dress up like a colonial girl, make an apron from a pillowcase (see the following activity) and wear it over a long skirt. Tie a white cloth over your hair. Wrap and pin a white cloth (like a towel) around your neck and pin it in front.

For both boys and girls, cut large buckles from cardboard, cover them with aluminum foil, and tape or tie them onto the tops of your shoes.