

Clothing can tell us  
a lot about a  
civilisation and  
there are clear links  
to Art & design...



**What can we find out about the Greeks by looking at their clothing?**

## **What materials did they use to make clothes?**

The two most popular materials were wool and linen.

Wool was made from the fleeces of local sheep and linen from flax that came from Egypt.

Linen was a light fabric that was great in the summers.

Wool was warmer and good for the winters. In the later periods of Ancient Greece, the wealthy were able to buy clothes made of cotton and silk.

Making cloth took a lot of work and was one of the major jobs of the wife of a Greek family.





Most people wore plain white clothes as coloured clothing was more expensive.

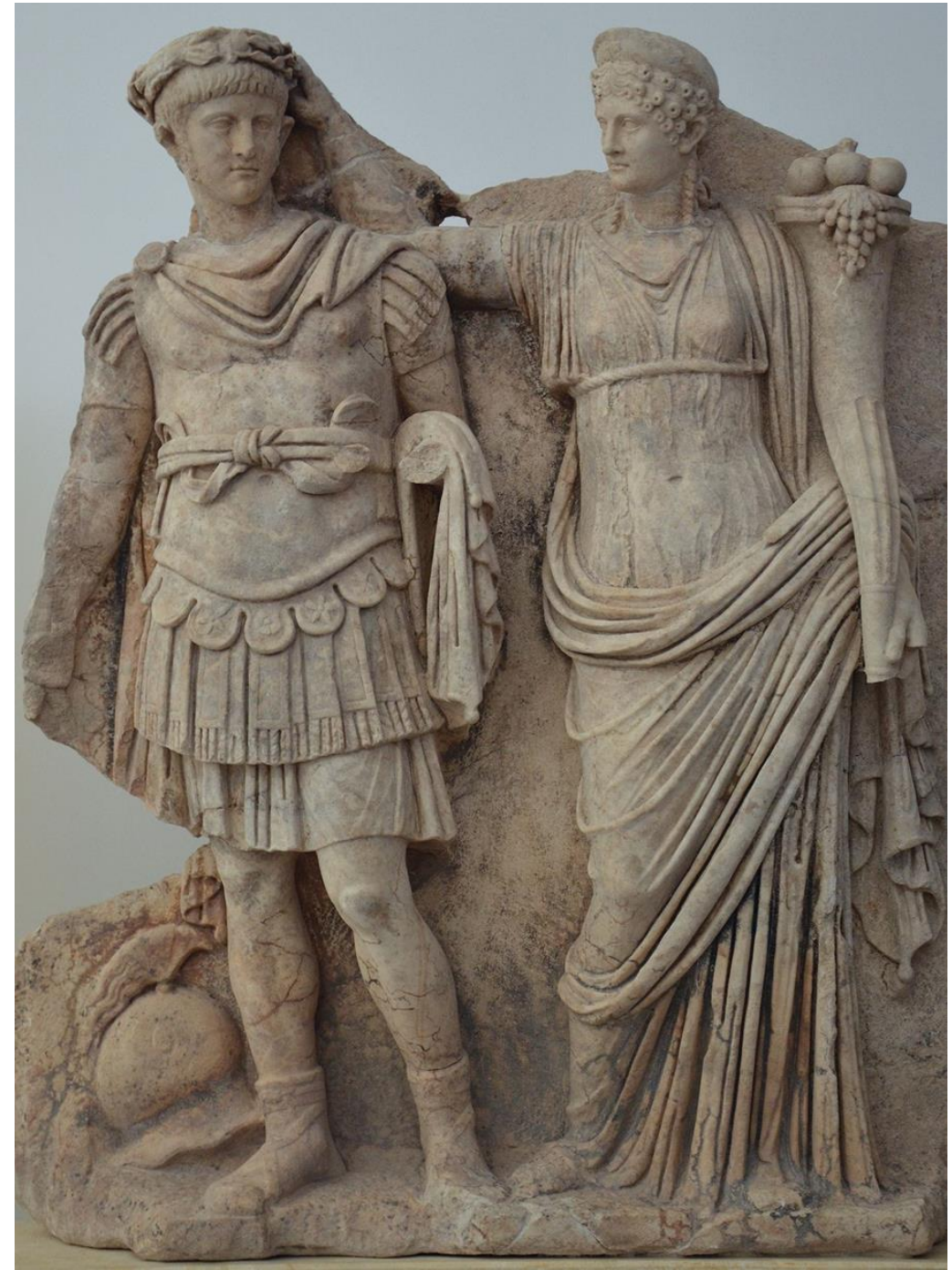
Fabrics were dyed/coloured using plants.

The most common colours were violet, green and grey while materials were decorated in checks, wavy lines, stripes and flowered designs.





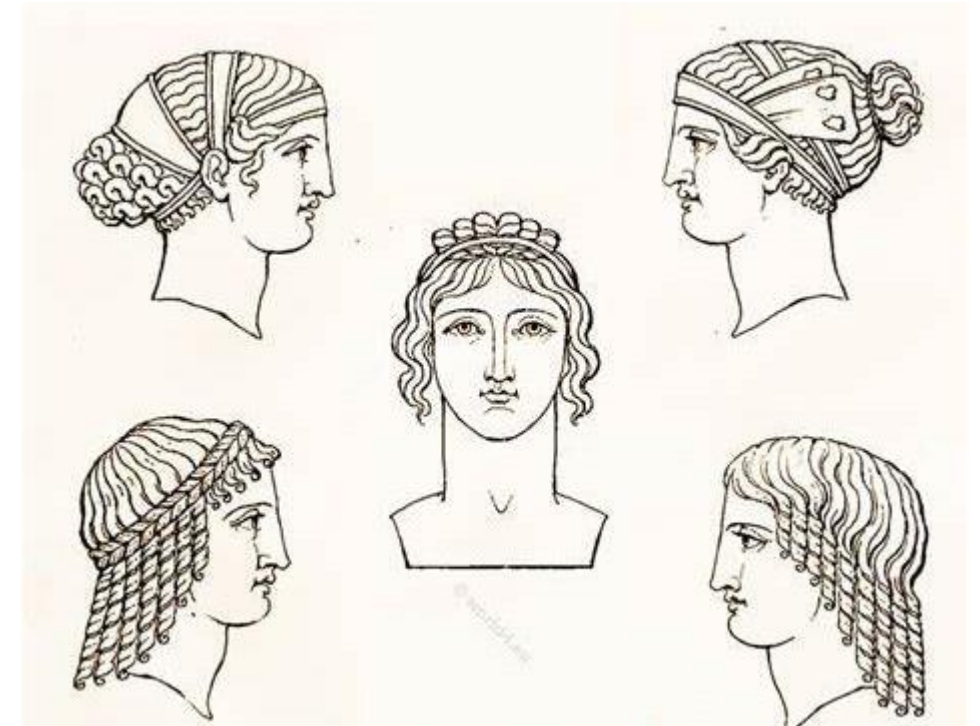
Clothing in Ancient Greece consisted of lengths of rectangular linen or wool fabric. The Greeks wore light clothes as the climate was hot for most of the year. Their garment usually consisted of two main parts: a tunic (either a peplos or chiton) and a cloak (himation). Clothes were secured with ornamental clasps or pins at the shoulder and belt, sash, or girdle at the waist. Length of clothing differed between men and women. Women clothing was to their ankles while men wore their robe to the knees.



A lot of the time, the Ancient Greeks went barefoot, especially when at home. If they could afford footwear, they usually wore leather sandals.



The Ancient Greeks loved to style their hair. Men generally wore their hair short, but they parted their hair and used oils and perfumes in it. Women wore their hair long. This helped to separate them from slave women who had their hair cut short. Women wore complicated hairstyles with braids, curls, and decorations such as headbands and ribbons.





Wealthy Greeks wore jewellery made from precious metals like gold and silver. They wore rings, necklaces, and earrings. Women would sometimes have jewellery sown into the fabric of their clothing. A popular type of jewellery was a decorated pin or fastener used to attach their wrap or cloak.



Snake rings and bracelets were popular choices to adorn wrists and hands. Snakes were associated with the healing god Asclepius.



# Make your own snake bracelet...

## You will need:

- Card
- Pipe cleaner/thin wire
- Glue
- Tinfoil
- Permanent black felt-tip pen/Sharpie.

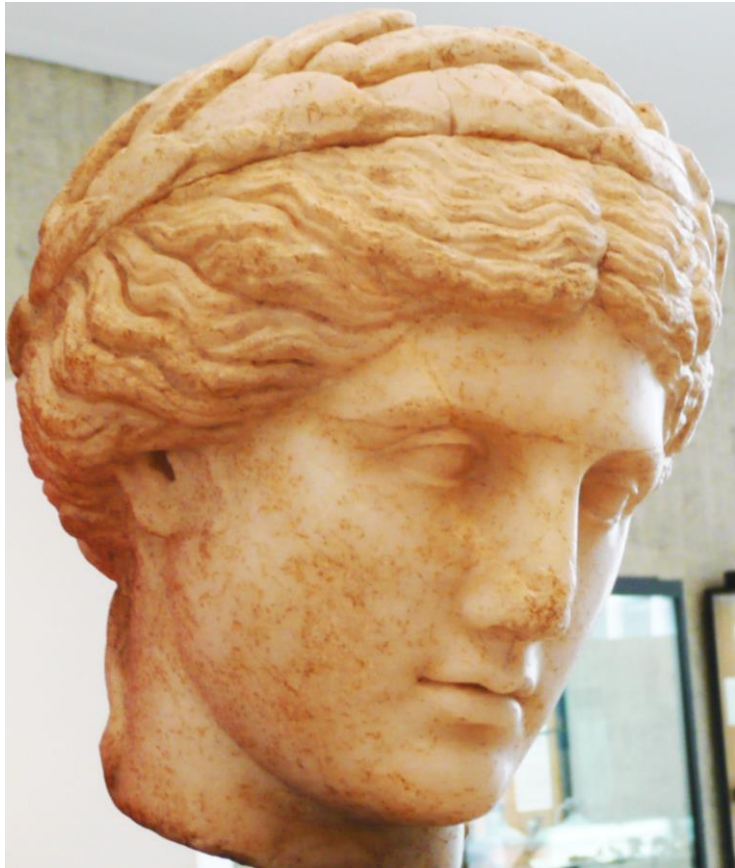
## Instructions:

- Cut a strip of card a bit longer than a pipe cleaner.
- Fold the card in half and stick the pipe cleaner in the middle to make the card bendy.
- Make the shape of a snake's head and tail and stick them to the card.
- Wrap the card in tin foil.
- Then use the permanent black marker pen to draw a scale pattern and give eyes to the snake's head.



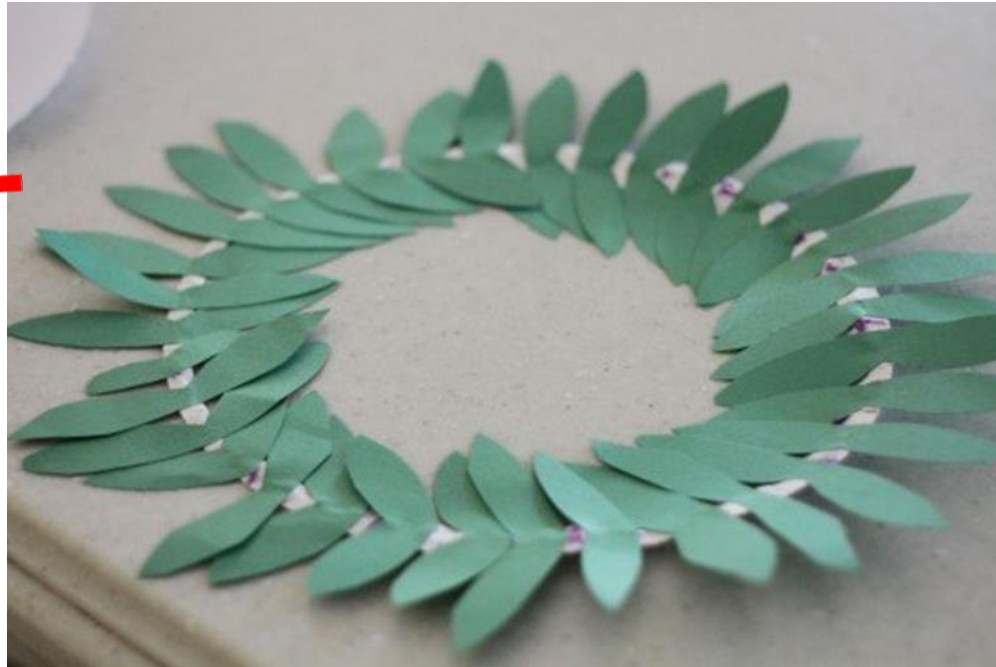
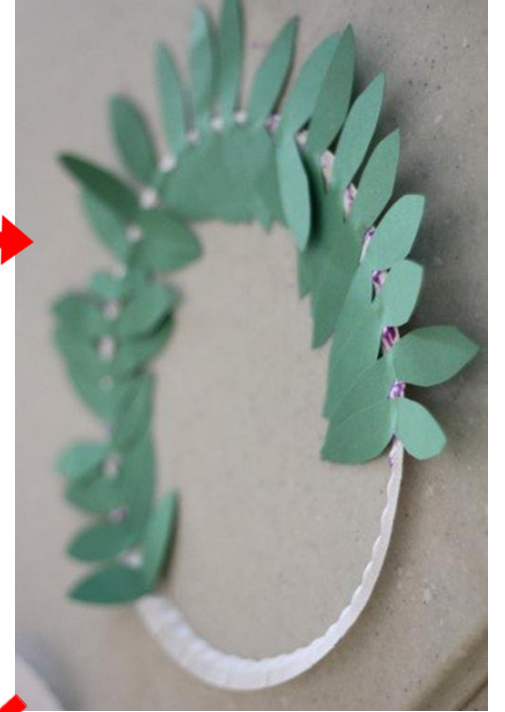
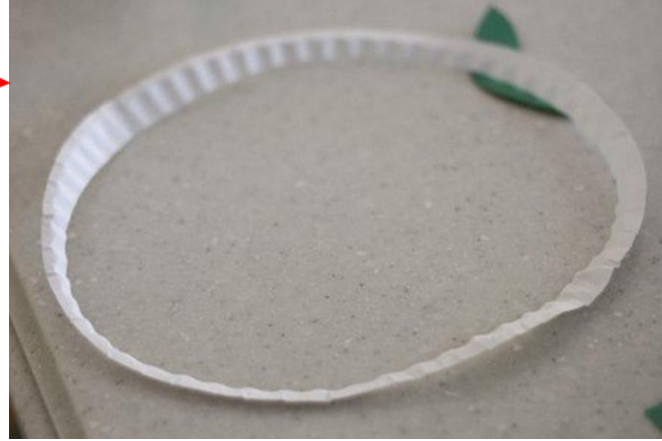


The symbol of the laurel wreath traces back to Greek mythology. The laurel wreath that Apollo wears is a symbol of victory and honour, which was used in Greek times to identify the victors in athletic competitions, including the Olympics.



Images associated  
with ancient  
Greece sometimes  
feature laurel  
wreaths...





**Follow the  
steps to make  
your own  
laurel wreath...**

Now that you've done this, think about making another wreath – this time use what you learned about Rene Magritte – the surrealist artist.

Instead of laurel leaf shapes what could you use?

Magritte liked apple, fish and cloud shapes – what else can you remember (or research)?

AND perhaps use newspaper or magazines for your shapes.

Really let your imagination take over and remember surrealism is about creating a surprise.

I cant wait to see you modelling your creation!

