

ROYAL STYLE IN THE MAKING

KS2 RESOURCE

FASHIONABLE STORIES

Royal clothing designed for official occasions such as coronations and weddings is often full of symbols and images which tell a story.

Norman Hartnell designed Elizabeth II's coronation dress. He visited the London Museum and the library to do some research and develop ideas for his designs.

“My mind was teeming with heraldic and floral ideas...”

Sir Norman Hartnell, 1955



Dress design by Norman Hartnell, 1953
© Historic Royal Palaces

DISCUSS:

Find in the gallery some embroidery designs by Norman Hartnell. Elizabeth II's coronation dress was decorated with embroidered thistles, leeks, roses, and shamrocks.

What do you think these might represent?



DO:

Design your own outfit for a special occasion. Include some embroidery designs that represent you. Which symbols would you choose? Include some notes to explain your design.



FANCY DRESS

Find Princess Margaret's fancy dress costume in the gallery. This dress was designed for Princess Margaret to wear to a fancy-dress ball. The dress is Georgian in style, but only dates to 1964!

Hillsborough Castle was built in the Georgian period.

DO:

Imagine you are going to a ball, held here in 1764, and design your perfect outfit! You can take inspiration from the designs you see here and the portraits inside the castle.



TOP TIP:

In the Georgian period men wore long jackets, waistcoats, and trousers to the knee, worn with stockings (long socks). Powdered wigs were also often worn. For women, dresses often had large skirts, with frills and embellishments.

DISCUSS:

If you visit the castle today look at what people are wearing in the portraits. Can you see any similarities or differences between style in the past and today? Would you like to wear any of those outfits?

