

Unit 9 Cross-curricular worksheet

History: Dressing up

1 Read the text.



For hundreds of years, people have enjoyed wearing fancy dress or disguising themselves at parties and balls. In seventeenth-century Italy, parties or festivals where people wore masks and costumes were very popular. They influenced the masquerade balls of eighteenth-century Europe. At these balls, a person could hide his identity behind a mask. However, guests wearing disguise sometimes behaved badly, and masquerade balls soon became unpopular.

In the nineteenth century, people stopped wearing masks and began to wear fancy dress. People dressed up as characters from poetry and fiction, for example, characters from Shakespeare's plays or Charles Dickens's novels. It was also popular to dress up as a person from another country, or from a period in history. Queen Victoria enjoyed holding fancy dress balls. At these parties, the costumes had to be historically correct. Soon people wore fancy dress for any special occasion, such as birthday parties or even public holidays!

Women soon began to choose costumes that made use of the latest fashions. By dressing up as 'night', 'winter', or 'snow', for example, they could ask their dressmaker to make a pretty, fashionable dress which they could decorate with flowers or decorations. They then had a dress which they could adapt and wear again. Nowadays people still like to dress up, especially at celebrations like Halloween. Children and adults put on scary clothes so they look like ghosts or vampires – anything horrible. Fancy dress traditions have changed over the centuries, but the fun has stayed the same.

2 Read the text again and complete the sentences with the correct word. Use a dictionary to help you.

When you wear something so that people don't know who you are, you *disguise* yourself.

- 1 Your _____ is who or what you are.
- 2 You wear a _____ to hide your face.
- 3 When you change something to use it for a new reason, you _____ it.
- 4 In the nineteenth century, _____ were very popular, and Queen Victoria held them.
- 5 You can wear _____ to parties when you want to look like a different person, for example a character from a book.

3 Read the text again. Number the sentences in the correct order to match the text.

- | | | |
|---|--|-------|
| a | People wore masks and costumes to parties in Italy. | 2 |
| b | It was important to wear the correct costume at one of Queen Victoria's parties. | _____ |
| c | People have worn masks and costumes for hundreds of years. | _____ |
| d | A lady could wear a dress to a party and then use it again for ordinary days. | _____ |
| e | Dressing as characters from books then became popular. | _____ |
| f | Masks became unpopular because people wearing disguise often behaved badly. | _____ |