

# ROMAN CLOTHING

The type of clothing worn in Ancient Rome depended on the person's status. Clothing was more colorful, intricate and elaborate for upper-class members. The fabric was usually woolen cloth which was readily available. Later, silk was imported from China, but only the most wealthy could afford it. Roman men and women wore sandals or shoes that completely covered their feet.

**Togas** were the national garment of male Roman citizens. It was a large piece of material that was draped over and around the body. They were worn over a short-sleeved **tunic** which is similar to a long t-shirt. The colors of the clothing indicated the occasion or the social status of the male.

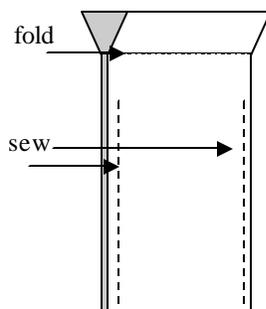
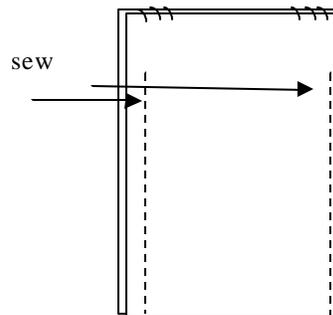
Women did not usually wear togas, but wore a tunic inspired by the Greek chiton. Two types of tunics women wore were the **chiton** and the **peplos**. Married women wore a **stola**, a long, sleeveless tunic, on top of her chiton or peplos. When women went outside they might wear a cloak called a **palla** that was draped over the left shoulder.

\*If you don't have old sheets at home to use, it may be less expensive to buy material by the yard at a fabric store than to purchase bedsheets. Use large safety pins because they are more sturdy and will hold layers of fabric together better than small ones.

## COSTUMES FOR GIRLS

### Chiton

1. Begin with two wide pieces of material, roughly the length of your body.
2. Sew together, leaving room for arm holes.
3. Attach the two pieces of material at the shoulders with pins, buttons or other decorations.
4. Tie a belt around your waist.



### Peplos

1. Begin with two pieces of material, roughly the length of your body plus two feet.
2. Fold down the top of both pieces about 2 feet.
3. Sew the two pieces together, leaving holes for arms.
4. Attach the two pieces of material at the shoulders by adding pins, buttons or other decorations.
5. Tie a belt around your waist.

## COSTUMES FOR BOYS

### TOGA:

Start with a long t-shirt. Wrap a piece of material around your waist one and a half times. Drop the remaining material over your shoulder. Romans didn't usually pin or sew their togas, but you may want to secure it with safety pins. Many Romans wore large brooches at their shoulders. Borrow one or make one by cutting a circle or oval out of cardboard. Glue or tape a safety pin to the back. Cover the front of the brooch with foil or paint and add designs with permanent markers.



ROMAN CLAD IN THE TOGA.

### GLADIATOR:

Start with a long t-shirt. Wrap material around your waist. Make armor from cardboard and cover with paint or foil. Wear a helmet and carry a plastic sword.