

Research questions for secondary students



A flounce of Venetian, *gros point* needle lace, 1650 - 75

Lace styles and techniques

1. Identify examples of needlepoint lace, bobbin lace and embroidered
2. Select your favourite piece of lace:
 - Sketch the lace
 - Describe the lace and the materials and techniques used to make it.
 - Find another piece which uses the same technique as your selection
3. Compare and contrast a piece of handmade lace with a machine-made piece that you have at home.
4. Describe Valenciennes lace.
5. What does the term '*punto in aria*' mean? Describe this style of lace.

Did you know?

Weddings have been a prime occasion for wearing lace since the 18th century. The 'traditional' white wedding gown and veil first appeared towards the end of the 18th century and was considered essential by the 1830s.

Early history of lace

6. Name the three distinct styles of lace which emerged in Europe from the 16th century onwards.
7. Which 17th century Flemish artist's portraits helped make bobbin lacemaking famous?
8. In the 1660s what did France's king, Louis XIV, do to encourage the production of high-quality French lace?
9. Where would you find lace on men's, women's and children's clothing during the 17th century?
10. Did men or women wear the most lace during the 17th century?
11. When did the tradition of wearing white lace wedding gowns and veils first emerge?
12. Why was lacemaking regarded as a virtuous occupation for women in the 19th century?
13. Explain why there were very few examples of gold or silver lace in existence today.



Detail from a church altar cloth, thought to have been made in Spain in the early 1600s by nun or devout parishioners.



'Grid' Dress by Elly Joel, Australia, 2001; award-winning entry in the Powerhouse Museum 2nd International Lace for Fashion Award 2001.

Contemporary Lace

14. List ten contemporary fashion accessories which are made with lace.
15. In the early 1970s which fashion designer brought lace back into fashion through his celebrated design for a backless gown featuring black Chantilly lace?
16. Name ten contemporary couturiers or fashion designers who use lace in their collections.
17. Research the type of lace used in the bridal gown of Princess Grace of Monaco for her wedding to Prince Rainier in 1956.
18. In the 1950s and 60s Hollywood movie stars such as Rita Hayworth, Ava Gardner and Marilyn Monroe were photographed wearing garments embellished with black lace because it was considered alluring. Find images of famous people wearing black lace and identify the type of lace and the designer of the garment.

Lace in Australia

19. When did Australian lacemaking begin to take on a distinctive local flavour through the use of motifs such as native flora and fauna?
20. Research the work of a contemporary Australian fashion designer who uses lace.



'Waratah' lace designed by Margaret Holt in 1978 and made by Marjorie Beales, Australia, 1988.

Did you know?

Children in the 17th century wore as lace as adults. Both boys and girls wore gowns, bonnets and aprons trimmed with lace. Up to the age of seven there was little difference in how girls and boys were dressed.