



World Kids

Fun for kids!

True stories!



PAL Project

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Can you guess what the topic of this month's issue is? The answer is **CLOTHING!** Nowadays probably the most commonly worn clothing all over the world is a t-shirt and blue jeans - but even a generation ago this was not the case. In fact denim jeans originated in **Italy** in the 1500s and were worn by sailors who found them excellent for working on ships; and the first t-shirts were worn in the late 1800s as

Do you know what mankind's first type of clothing was like? The answer is at the end.



undergarments and later became popular in the US Navy following the Spanish-American War of 1898. There are still some native peoples in many parts of the world who wear little or even no clothing, but through the centuries mankind has adapted local materials to develop certain styles of clothing that later became recognized as that nation's traditional dress. Most involved wrapping a length of woven fabric in such a way as to cover and protect the body from the sun, cold wind or thorny bushes, while enabling the person to continue working. Look in this laundry basket and see if you can match up each item of traditional clothing with its native country:

KILT

CLOGS

SARI

KANGA

KIMONO

BURQHA

PONCHO

1. Mexico
2. Japan
3. Holland
4. Saudi Arabia
5. Scotland
6. India
7. Kenya

What each of us considers as the "normal" style of clothing depends on which country we come from. For most Westerners, men wear some form of trousers or pants, and women are the ones who wear skirts or dresses. But this is not the case everywhere. In many **Arab countries** both men and women wear robes that are much the same - and could be considered a type of "dress". Men in parts of **Africa** and the **Pacific Islands** also traditionally wear lengths of cloth wrapped around them like a skirt; yet in much of **Asia**, for centuries women have worn trousers or pants just as the men do.

As Christians, some of us have heard teaching that women should not wear trousers (pants). The scripture this is based on is found in **Deuteronomy 22:5**, which says "***A woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing, for the Lord your God detests anyone who does this.***" In the West this is often interpreted as women must not wear trousers and men should not wear skirts. But as you can see from the previous page, Christians in other parts of the world would understand it very differently, since both men and women actually wear very similar clothing. In fact, if we consider the customs of Biblical times, we will realize that back then, NO-ONE wore trousers - men and women all wore a similar style of robes. Therefore this scripture must have a deeper meaning! If we consider other Bible verses concerning the things God detests or hates, I believe it is clear it really means that men should not dress up and pretend to be women, nor women dress up to pretend to be men. God hates lies and deception, and Jesus clearly said that it is what is in our HEARTS that is more important than our outward appearance; but we should also dress modestly and not focus too much on just our clothes.

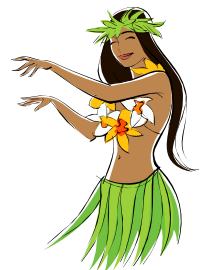


Yet nowadays in many countries around the world, the fashion industry involves billions of dollars each year. Just a few months ago probably the world's most expensive dress (by a designer in **Malaysia**) was valued at \$30,000,000 and contained 751 diamonds! Each season a new style becomes fashionable and many people no longer want to wear last year's clothes! But for the majority of people around the world, fashion does not matter - they are thankful just to get some new article of clothing to wear (and often it is not really new, but second-hand). I have been in a lot of countries where when a bag of used clothing is brought into a group, there is great excitement as everyone searches for something that they can wear - and even if it is not the exact size, it is still worn with great pride!

In very poor areas everywhere, even VERY USED clothing is not discarded! Our friend in **India**, Saroj, recently told us of a group of children that he ministers to in a large slum outside Delhi - they are rag-pickers. This means that they sort through discarded clothing and material to find pieces of fabric that can still be used. Sometimes these are just bundled together and sold as rags, but sometimes larger items of clothing can be cut down and used to make clothes for children. Years ago it was the custom in the **USA** that when clothes were finally worn-out in a family, the mother often cut up any good sections of fabric and then sewed them together to make colorful patchwork quilts to use on the bed like a blanket. So clothes can actually have many uses!



When I lived in **Israel** years ago, I met many Arab women who were Bedouins and lived in the desert. Their life was very harsh and they very rarely came into town. They made their own clothing - a big black robe that covered them completely and gave protection against the burning sun and wind. The robe had a section of colorful decoration across the chest, which they hand-embroidered themselves and made the dress unique. I soon learned that each woman usually only owned 1 or 2 dresses and so could be recognized by her dress! In very cold climates, such as **Greenland**, **Scandinavia** and **Russia**, many people wear clothing or coats made from the fur of wild animals such as mink, fox and bear since they give good protection against the bitterly cold winds and snow. But in tropical areas such as the **South Sea Islands** and **Hawaii**, skirts are made from grass or palm leaves - obviously they may not last very long, but with the plentiful vegetation it is no problem to make a new one!



Clothing can be made from many different fabrics, which in turn are made from all kinds of different things. Many of us are familiar with cotton and linen (from plants); wool, angora and leather (from animals); and silk (from worms). Then of course there are many man-made fabrics including acetate and rayon (from wood and plant fibers); nylon and polyester (from petroleum and coal); and spandex (from chemicals), and many blends or combinations of fabrics. But the most important thing to remember is that fashion and clothes are not as important as the person **INSIDE** them!! Until next time,

Your friend, Shirley

Facts from various websites

Answers: First clothing - fig leaves (Genesis 3:7). Later God made them some from animal skins (v.21) Laundry basket: 1. Mexico - poncho; 2. Japan - kimono; 3. Holland - clogs; 4. Saudi Arabia - burqha; 5. Scotland - kilt; 6. India - sari; 7. Kenya - kanga

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