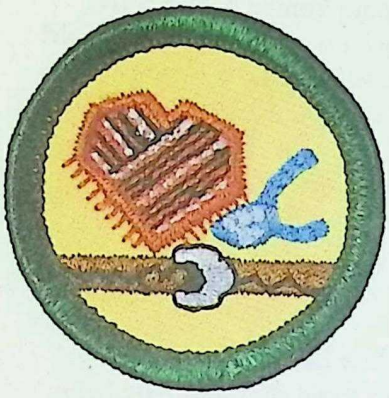
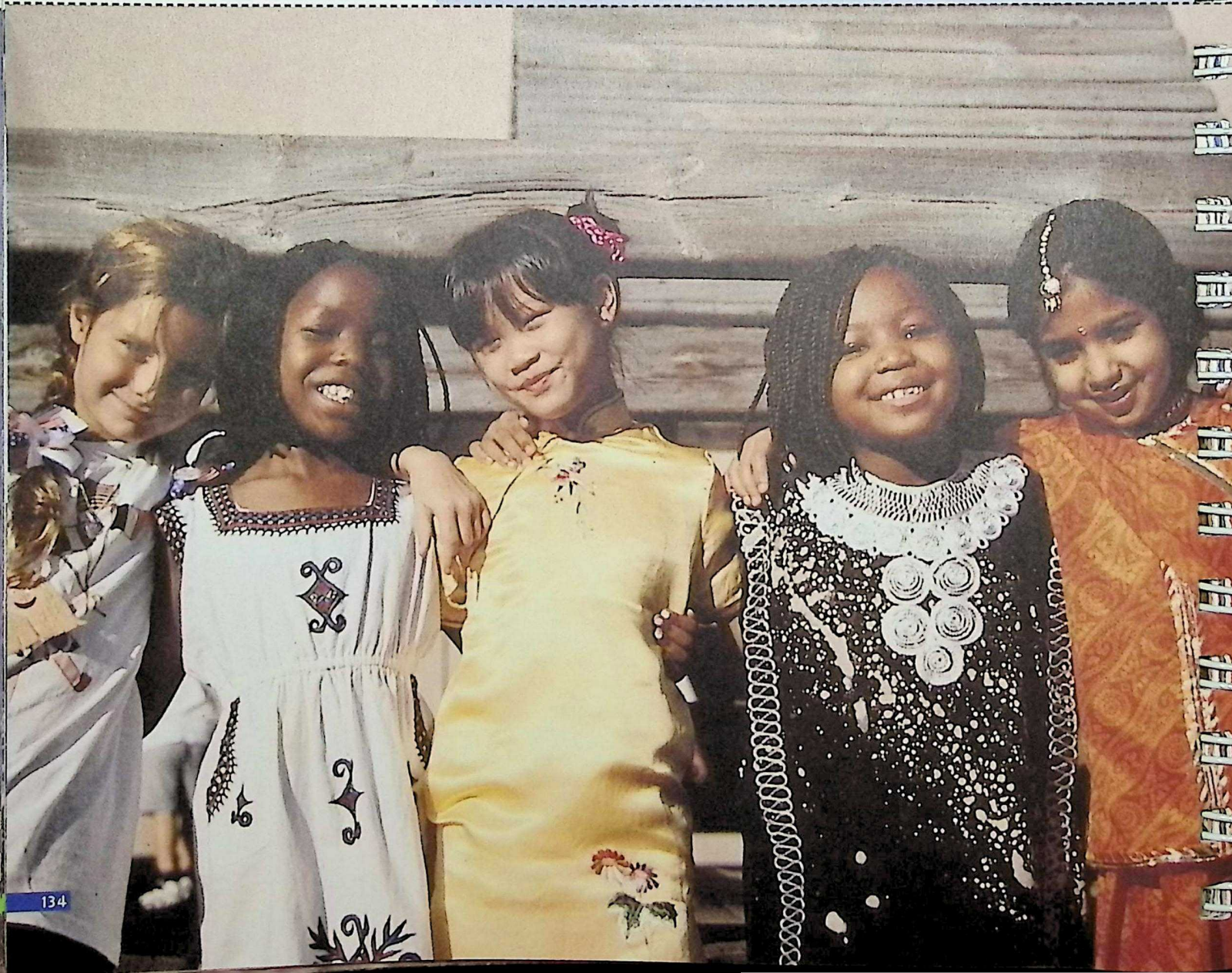
Art to Wear



What you wear says a lot about who you are. If you are interested in fashion design or the history of clothing, or if you just want to change your fashion look, read on.



1. Fashion Through the Ages

Collect pictures of fashions from three periods of history, dating about 20 years apart. You can check the fashion picture collection at a library or museum, online, or in issues of fashion magazines or paper doll books. Draw pictures of what you find and arrange them attractively on a poster or in a booklet. What do you like or dislike from different eras? For instance, you might like how the hoop skirts from the mid 1800s look, but not like how they keep you from playing sports.

2. Fashion Friendship

Make a friendship anklet (see the "Create and Invent" chapter in your *Junior Girl Scout Handbook*) or an accessory for a friend, such as a vest, belt, or scarf, using a technique that you have learned, such as sewing, knitting, crocheting, or embroidering.

3. Fashions From Afar

Create a poster of the traditional dress of countries from three continents. Explore libraries, museums, and magazines, talk to family and friends, or look online to find out how the garments or decorations reflect the culture and lifestyle of the people.

4. Show Your Flair

With an adult's help, make an item of clothing or alter one you already own. Show off your creation at a troop or group fashion show. With others who are interested, plan the fashion show to kick off or conclude a fabulous season in Girl Scouting. Invite the public. Give the show a theme, such as "Girl Scouts Dress Globally," "Spring Fever," or "Roaring Twenties."



5. Pattern-maker

Some fabric designs or patterns are made by batik, tie dyeing, silk screen, or embroidery. Try your hand at creating a pattern. Select a method and create the pattern. Use it on a plain piece of fabric, a shirt, or other item. Display your item in a troop or group fashion show, or wear it on a special occasion.

6. Fashion Add-ons

Create a clothing accessory for yourself, such as a jacket, vest, belt, scarf, or hat, in a technique that you have learned—sewing, knitting, crocheting, or embroidering.

7. Sell Fashion

What careers or hobbies in fashion interest you? Explore that question in your troop or group in one of two ways:

- Invite people in your community—shop owners, art students, designers—to talk about their careers. Talk to them one on one, or as part of a panel.
- Visit a flea market and talk to people who display their art to wear, from belts to boots and hats to jewelry.

8. Doll Clothes

Collect dolls from your home or from friends and give them a fashion tune-up. Design jackets, dresses, pants, or other fashion components for one or two dolls.

9. The Old Is New Again

Look at jewelry from two to three different decades. What was popular? Are any trends from the past popular now? What's the newest trend? Draw or create a piece of jewelry that you think will be a future trend.

10. Decorate Your Wears

Dress up a plain or old garment with a small decorative item. For instructions on making the item, consult crafts or sewing booklets available at specialty shops or online. Check the following for ideas: embroidery, crocheting, lacework, quilting, appliqué, braiding, beads, buttons, costume jewelry, tassels, fringes, and pompoms. Model your finished creation for friends and family.