

## *Lesson 2: 1790-1810*



*Portrait of Constance Pipelet by Jean-Baptiste Francoise*

Desoria. c.1797

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E = On High School Final Exam

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## *Fashion 1790 to 1810* (E, 9.9)

Last time we looked at some magnificent examples of 18<sup>th</sup> century clothing and discussed the start of the French Revolution. While the new United States was growing into a nation, factors were coming together that threatened to tear France apart.

At the start of the Revolution, the French people rose up, executing King Louis XVI and, later Queen Marie Antoinette. While the nobility was targeted first, within a few years no one was safe from being accused of being an enemy of the Revolution. During the period known as the **Reign of Terror** (1793-1794), around 17,000 people were



**Fig. 3** Woman's Redingote, c. 1790.

put to death.<sup>1</sup> Some people fled France, going to other

European countries and even to French Louisiana.

Eventually the Terror subsided as some of those in power were themselves executed. This period, between 1795 and 1799, was called the **Directory**.

Three of the goals of the Revolution had been "*Liberté, égalité, fraternité*" (liberty, equality, brotherhood). New styles of dress reflected equality, being simpler and using moderately-priced fabric and less of it so that more classes of people dressed in



**Fig. 2** *Self-Portrait with a Harp* by Rose Adelaide Ducreux c. 1791

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<sup>1</sup> *Encyclopedia Britannica, Online*, s.v. "Reign of Terror," updated May 15, 2015, accessed March 20, 2017, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Reign-of-Terror>.

## 1790s Fashion Questions

1. How did the dresses of the 1790s and 1800s reflect the French Revolution's motto of "Egalite" (equality)?

2. Women who adopted exaggerated dresses during the 1790s in France were called \_\_\_\_\_ . Men were called \_\_\_\_\_ .

3. Describe the Empire style of dress. What was the problem with some of these dresses?

4. Since dresses were so thin at this time, women often carried small purses called \_\_\_\_\_ .

5. Who was Emperor of France during the First Empire?

6. What happened to Napoleon Bonaparte? A) He was exiled to the island of Elba, escaped, and was exiled to St. Helena. b) He was executed c) He died of smallpox.

## 1790-1810 Men's Attire



Fig. 16 *Portrait of a Sans Culotte* by Louis-Leopold Boilly.

“Sans Culottes” were French common men who did not wear the short pants and silk stockings of the aristocracy.



Fig. 17 1790s Ensemble. Short pants continued to be worn, especially for formal occasions, into the 1810s.

### 1800s Men

In the early 1800s men wanted to be thin. Believe it or not, some men even wore corsets!

**Beau Brummel** set the style for men during this time period. He was a “dandy,” and always impeccably dressed. He is considered the originator of the modern masculine “suit.”



Fig. 18 Beau Brummel was the leader of men's fashion in England in the 1800s. Immensely proud of his cravats, Brummel sometimes boasted that it took him hours to dress.

*Primer Page: The Good-Natured Girls* (2.3)



When father or mother had a job to be done,  
These good little girls would immediately run;  
And not stand disputing to which it belong'd,  
And grumble, and fret, and declare they were wrong'd.

Taylor, Jane, and Her Sisters. *Original Poems for Infant Minds*. New York: C. S. Francis and Company, 1854.

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### 3. Thomas Lawrence

The Blue Boy's portrait hangs beside another famous painting in the Huntington Library in California. This painting is of a young girl about eleven years old. Her name was Sarah Barrett Moulton, but the painting is often called *Pinkie*.

Pinkie was painted around 1794, and she is wearing the type of dress that we studied in this lesson.

Unfortunately Sarah (Pinkie) lived in a time when people did not have the medicines that we have today. She died when she was 12, after being reported to have had a cough. As was common for wealthy people at that time, she was buried inside a church.

Although Pinkie did not live long, her painting has lasted for over two hundred years and is very famous.

Learn more about Pinkie at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinkie\\_\(painting\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinkie_(painting))



Fig. 23 *Pinkie* by Thomas Lawrence.

## *Historical Needlework: Cross-Stitch & Monogramming* (E, 7.9)



Fig. 24 “Periwinkle Cottage” counted cross-stitch picture from Microsoft Word Clipart.

Cross-stitching is a very well-known hobby. You may know someone who practices this craft.

The materials and equipment needed for cross-stitch are simple and easy to find: Aida or other fabric, needles, embroidery floss<sup>7</sup>, a hoop, and a pattern printed on fabric or a folder with a chart. Kits are also available.

Cross-stitch is easy to learn and, unless the work is very large, it is very portable. You can carry it

with you, or work on it in the evenings. Cross-stitched items make nice gift for family and friends.

Although still popular today, cross-stitch has a long history. In the past, many young girls were taught to sew and stitch by making cross-stitch **samplers**. You may have seen some of these in museums or antique stores. They usually contained the alphabet, some simple pictures, numbers, and a saying or a Bible verse. Girls were taught to make these because not only did it help them learn to sew and to recognize letters, but also so that they would have a reference for stitching alphabet-letters. At that time, linens (tablecloths, sheets, napkins, handkerchiefs, and underclothes) were considered valuable possessions. In fact, a young woman was supposed to have enough household linens and undergarments when she

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<sup>7</sup> While many companies manufacture embroidery floss, DMC floss is usually of consistent quality and offers a wide range of colors.

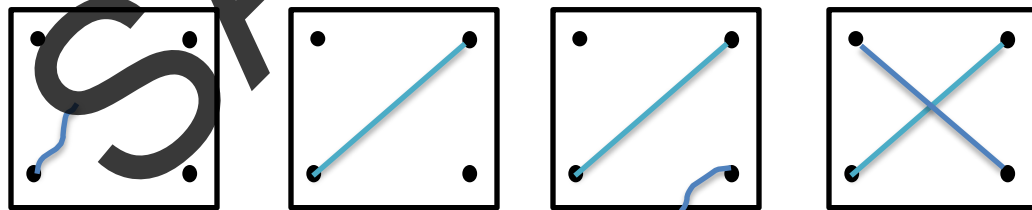
married to last for many years. Most women marked their linens with their initials (a **monogram**) to help the laundress keep different people's laundry separate, and to help prevent the linens from being stolen.<sup>8</sup> As there were no laundry-marking pens at that time, many women marked their linens by cross-stitching or embroidering items with their monogram.

In contrast to simply working a few cross-stitches to make a letter or small pattern, counted **cross-stitch** is cross-stitch worked to cover the surface of the fabric so that it forms a picture. It is usually worked on Aida cloth, which is a fabric woven in a grid-pattern so that it has little holes through which you put your needle. In counted cross-stitch, you have a chart with different colors or symbols on it, and you count how many of that symbol or color that you need and then make those stitches on the fabric. Some of these pictures require a large number of very subtly-different colors of floss. This gives the picture almost the shading of a painting.

### Basic Cross-Stitch

Since the fundamentals of cross-stitch are relatively easy to learn, here are some very basic instructions:

From this illustration you can easily see how an individual cross-stitch is made:



If you have a line of cross stitches, you usually do all of the right-slanting diagonals first, and then come back and do the left-slanting ones.

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<sup>8</sup> If you have read *Oliver Twist*, you will remember that one of the tasks that Fagin's boy-thieves do is to pick the embroidered initials out of pocket-handkerchiefs in order to re-sell the handkerchiefs.

## *Conversations with the Curator: Museums* (E, 8.6)

### What is a museum?



Fig. 25 There are many types of museums.

That may sound like a silly question, but you might be surprised at the answers you might get. Some people might say that a museum is a place with old things like spinning wheels and 1860s dresses. Other people might say that it is a place with even older things, like dinosaur bones or early arrow points. Some people might say that it is a place with art, and others that museums have rare and valuable items.

So what is a museum?

Any business can call itself a museum; there is no law defining what a museum is or should be. Professional museum organizations, however, have their own requirements for membership. According to the International Council on Museums (ICOM):

A museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment.

I know that seems complicated, and probably does not tell you what you really wanted to know. However, it tells some important things about what a museum should be. Museums are not in business to make a lot of money. Obviously museums need to make money to pay their staff and take care of their artifacts, but real museums are “non-profit.”

Museums have to be open to the public at some time, and they have to have *real* things. Those real things can be dresses, or automobiles, or art, or even animals or plants! (in the case of zoos and arboretums). The main thing is that the items have to be real. They cannot

to know. Here is the format that I'm using for bibliographic citations of online images in these lessons:

Painter or person who took the photo, if known. Digital Image. Name of the web page or object. Date the item was made. Materials of which the real item is made. Where the real item is now. *Website where I found the digital image of the item.* Date the picture was uploaded, if known. Date I accessed the website. URL.

If you take a class, your professor will give you specifics about how he or she requires works to be cited. He or she may not even require you to cite illustrations or webpages except in a very simplified form, such as in a photo caption.

## THE GRIZZLY KING

A Romance of the Wild

BY  
JAMES OLIVER CURWOOD



ILLUSTRATED BY  
FRANK B. HOFFMAN

GARDEN CITY  
DOUGLASS, PAGE & COMPANY  
1914

*If you are new to citing sources, you may be wondering WHERE you get the information you need in your citations. Often the information that you need is located on the title page or the first few pages of a book or magazine. This title page gives the title of the book, the author, the publisher, where it was published, and the date of publication.*

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Citing sources takes some time and discipline to write down where you found information so that you aren't panicking the night before a paper is due trying to remember where you found a certain quotation. Citing sources is also honestly a little bit tedious with all of those periods, commas, and semi-colons to remember. Try to keep everything in perspective, though. If you wrote a book or painted a picture, wouldn't you want people to give you credit?