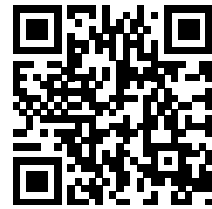


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Women and Fashion in the Middle Ages



In medieval England, _____ were not just garments but symbols of status and identity.

The _____ used in a dress could tell much about a woman's social position. Wealthier women wore _____ and velvet, which were expensive and imported from distant lands.

In contrast, the common woman had to settle for _____ or linen, which were more affordable and locally available.

The _____ of a dress also conveyed a lot about societal expectations. For example, dresses with long, flowing _____ were popular among the nobility, symbolizing elegance and delicacy. These sleeves were often impractical for _____, but that was precisely the point—they highlighted that the wearer did not engage in physical labor.

In terms of color, _____ was reserved for the royal family due to the high cost of the dye. This _____ helped reinforce the social hierarchy and was strictly enforced. Other colors like _____ and blue were more common and could be worn by those outside the royal _____, but still indicated a certain level of affluence depending on the shade and brightness.

_____ also influenced the design of medieval dresses. A married woman was expected to wear a _____ at her waist, symbolizing her marital status and chastity. This girdle was often decorated with _____ and intricate designs, further emphasizing her husband's wealth and her role within the _____.

For young girls and unmarried women, dresses were simpler and less ornate. As they transitioned to _____, their dresses became more elaborate, marking their new social _____ and readiness for marriage. This change in attire was a public declaration of their family's social _____ and the woman's availability for marriage.

Despite their restrictive and symbolic _____, dresses in medieval England were a woman's way of expressing her _____, albeit within the confines of a rigid class system. The _____ of dress styles over the centuries reflects shifts in societal norms and women's roles within it.

- nature
- purple
- identity
- status
- silk
- Marriage
- evolution
- jewels
- girdle
- dresses
- red
- work
- roles
- restriction
- fabric
- household
- wool
- family
- womanhood
- sleeves
- design