

COLONIAL CLOTHES



Around 1776, clothes not only looked different, but they were made out of cloth that is not used much today. The colonists knew how to make cloth out of plants and wool from their farms.

Coats, vests, and hats were usually made out of wool. Even during the summer, men wore their wool coats when walking around town. You might think they would be very hot, but wool is a good insulator and it actually kept them cool. The wool also helped them stay warm in the winter. Unlike cotton, wool holds warmth even when it's wet.

MEN

WOMEN



- CAP OR BONNET
- LINEN CHEMISE (ALSO CALLED SHIFT)
- LINEN BODICE
- APRON
- WOOL OR LINEN SKIRT

They might also have stays, neck kerchief, petticoats, and cape.

It was not considered proper to go out in public without a vest or bodice on.

Housewives made their own linen from the flax plant while wool came from sheep. Cotton and silk cloth was too expensive.



HUNTERS



Riflemen were frontiersmen who explored and hunted in the vast forests far from the colonies. They were used to camping and always on the move. They usually wore breeches (short pants), a linen hunting shirt, leather or wool leggings (to protect against briars), a hat, linen hunting frock (coat), and usually moccasins instead of shoes. The frock had a large cape around the shoulders to keep them dry in the rain. A pouch for their supplies was called a haversack.

WOOL TRICORN HAT

LINEN SHIRT

PEWTER, HORN, OR BONE BUTTONS

LINEN OR WOOL WAISTCOAT

LINEN BREECHES

LINEN OR SILK STOCKINGS

LEATHER SHOES WITH BUCKLES

