

What did little children wear?

Little girls wore long dresses — and so did little boys. Girls and boys were dressed almost exactly alike until they were about four or five years old.

When a boy was four or five, or maybe sooner, he stopped wearing dresses and began wearing *breeches*. Breeches were trousers that came below the knee.

On the day a boy got his first pair of breeches, people said he was *breeched*. From then on, he wore the kind of clothes that grown men wore.

When a girl was four years old she did not make a big change in the way she dressed. She was already wearing the kind of clothes that grown women wore.

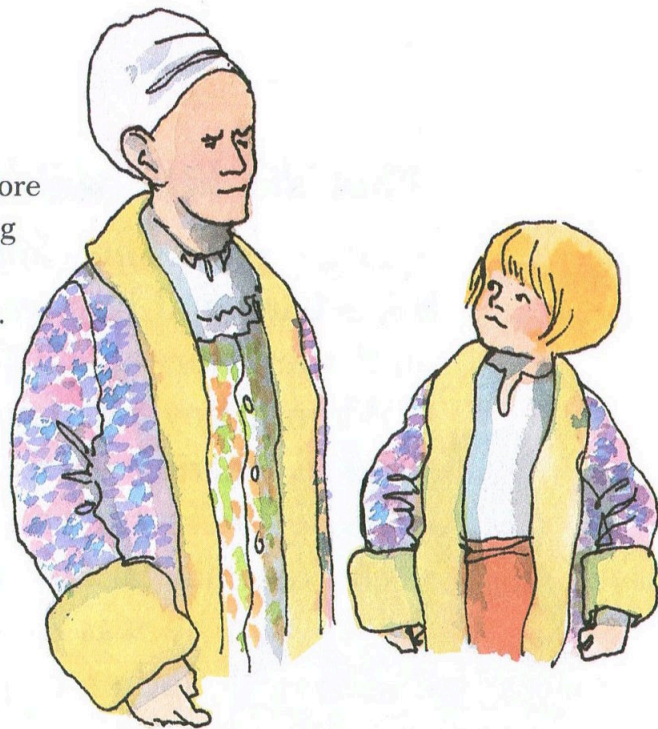


It was too hot in Virginia to be dressed up all the time. Around the house, everybody wore more comfortable clothes. This man is wearing a *banyan*. His son is wearing one too. A banyan was something like a long bathrobe.

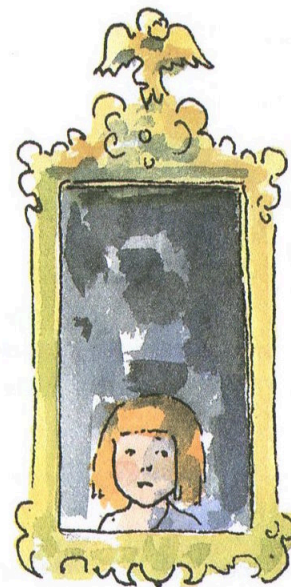


Rich girls and their mothers carried fans. That was the fashion.

When they went outdoors, they often wore long gloves and a mask. That was the fashion too. They did not want their arms and face to get suntanned.



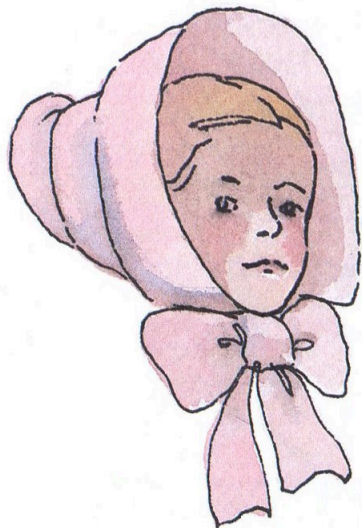
When a lady went to a fancy party or a ball, she stuck tiny bits of black silk on her face. The bits of silk were supposed to make her look more beautiful. They were shaped like moons or stars or circles and were called *beauty patches*.



Not everyone owned mirrors. They were expensive.



A sunbonnet helped to keep the sun off a little girl's face.



A planter's wife would wear a cap in the house most of the time.



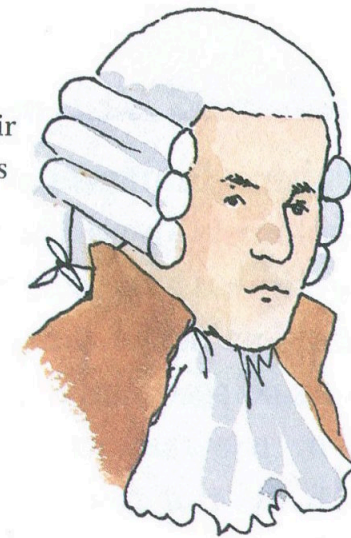
When she went out, she would put a hat on top of her cap.



This is the kind of hat most men wore.



Planters usually shaved off their hair and wore a wig instead. Young boys sometimes wore wigs too.



Wigs were hot and itchy. When a man took off his fancy clothes, he was glad to take his wig off and put on a cap.

Most people wore a cap or a hat all the time, even in the house.

Everyone wore a cap to bed at night.

Babies wore caps day and night.

