



Colonial Clothes (Colonial Quest)

By Verna Fisher

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Taking young readers on a journey back in time, this dynamic new series showcases various aspects of colonial life, from people and clothing to homes and food. Each book contains creative illustrations, interesting facts, highlighted vocabulary words, end-of-book challenges, and sidebars that help children understand the differences between modern and colonial life and inspire them to imagine what it would have been like to grow up in colonial America. The volumes in this series focus on the colonists but also include relevant information about Native Americans, offering a variety of perspectives on life in the colonies.

Looking at the clothing that men and women wore in colonial times, this book examines how fabrics were made and discusses the work of various professions related to clothing, including tailors, cobblers, tanners, milliners, and wigmakers.

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Editorial Review

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Sometimes the simplest truths can be the most startling: "When the colonists first settled in the New World, there were no stores selling clothes." Thus begins this very basic but nevertheless intriguing volume in the Colonial Quest series. It starts with the breeches, bonnets, vests, and dresses. "Children looked like small grown-ups," Fisher writes, and it's a savvy observation. By necessity, colonists had to make their own clothing, and information is given on tools like sewing wheels, which seem harmless enough until you learn that the king of England had banned them. Descriptions of weavers, tailors, cobblers, tanners, milliners, and wig makers lead to a surprisingly welcome finale: the clothing of Native Americans. Though the book's varied color palette is pleasing, Christensen's squiggly cartoon art struggles to reach par and on occasion confuses, as when he attempts to give a detailed view of a weaving loom. These visuals makes the series a hard sell in a graphic-novel age, but the information contained within makes it worth it. Grades 2-4. --Daniel Kraus

Review

"Sometimes the simplest truths can be the most startling: 'When the colonists first settled in the New World, there were no stores selling cloths.' Thus begins this very basic but nevertheless intriguing volume in the Colonial Quest series." —*Booklist* spotlight on nonfiction

About the Author

Verna Fisher

is the author of *Explore Colonial America!* and has written more than 100 regional, national, and online magazine articles focusing on children, education, and Native American topics. She lives in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

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