

Medieval Dress – The Lady



Clothing worn by "royal" people was brightly colored and made of soft material. Ladies usually wore woolen gowns that were very long. In the early Middle Ages the gowns often had sleeves that could touch the ground! Over top of the gown would be a robe called a surcoat.

Embroidery (special sewing stitches with bright colored thread) was very popular and could be found on most of the clothing worn at this time. A jeweled belt was often worn as well. A lady would likely wear a cloak with fur inside, that would be fastened with a decorative cord or jeweled clasp around her shoulders to keep her warm in the cold castle. Women in the Middle Ages usually had their heads covered. Coverings ranged from a wire circle holding a piece of cloth called linen, to the "cone-shaped" hats with a veil of "filmy" material. How a lady covered her head was a sign of her age and how important she was. Ladies of this time wore expensive jewelry to show others how rich they were. "Pattens" were shoes with high wooden bottoms. These could be worn over top of a lady's leather shoes when it was muddy outside.