

The background features stylized illustrations of colonial clothing. On the left, a man's head and shoulders are shown with a white shirt and a green vest. On the right, a woman's head and shoulders are shown with a white dress and a dark braid. In the center, there are several pieces of clothing: a white cravat, a green vest, a dark waistcoat, and a dark waistcoat with a buckle. At the bottom, there is a white corset with a white bow, a dark waistcoat with a buckle, and a purple garment.

# Colonial Clothing

What Did Men and Women Wear  
During the Colonial Times?



# Style & Fabric

Just like with fashion today, there were many different styles and variations during colonial days. You're getting ready to check out a typical outfit worn by women. The clothing varied by social class, too. Wealthy people wore more expensive fabrics, like cotton or silk. Poor or middle class colonists wore linen or wool.

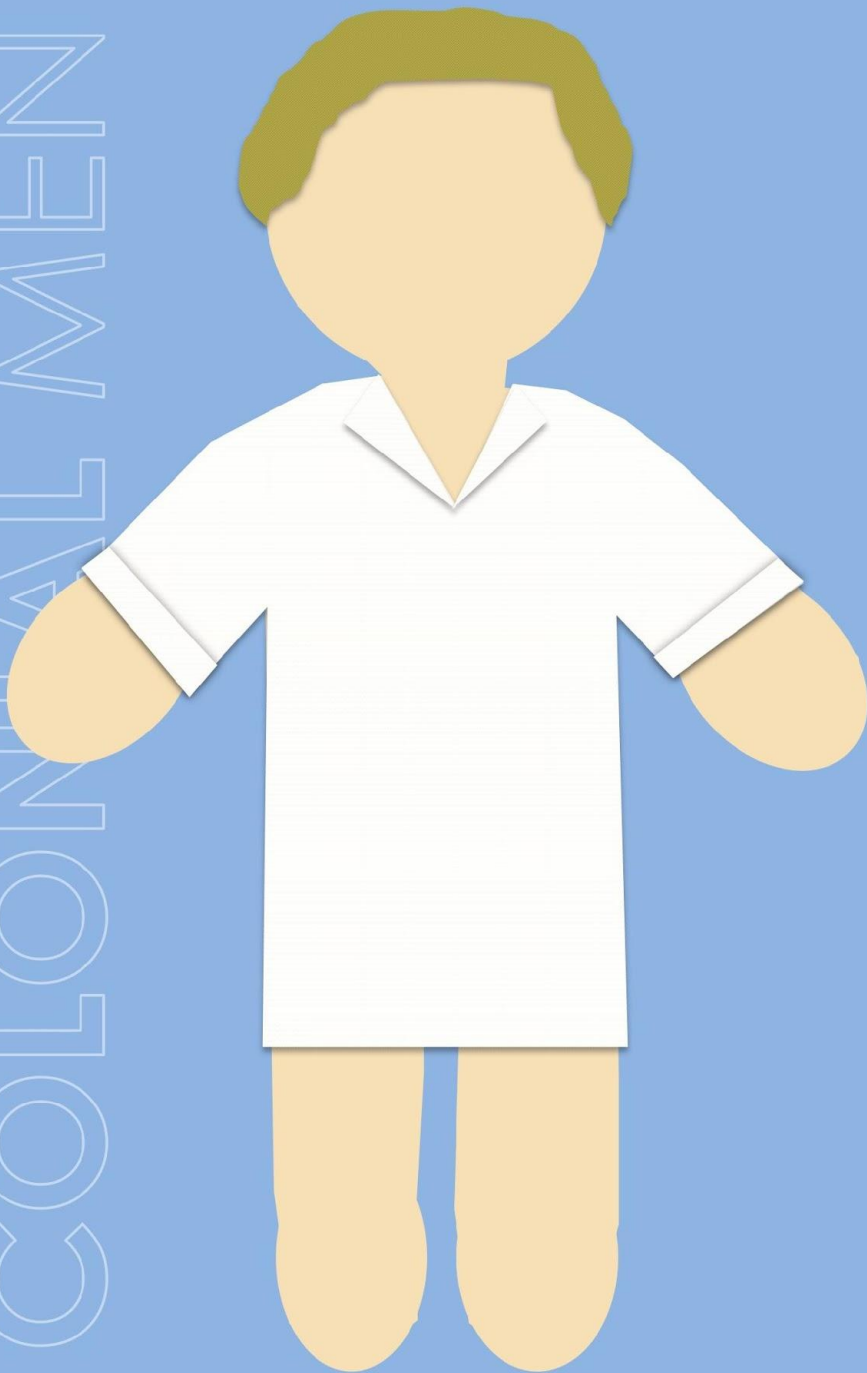
Click the titles below to jump around within the presentation.

[Women](#)

[Men](#)

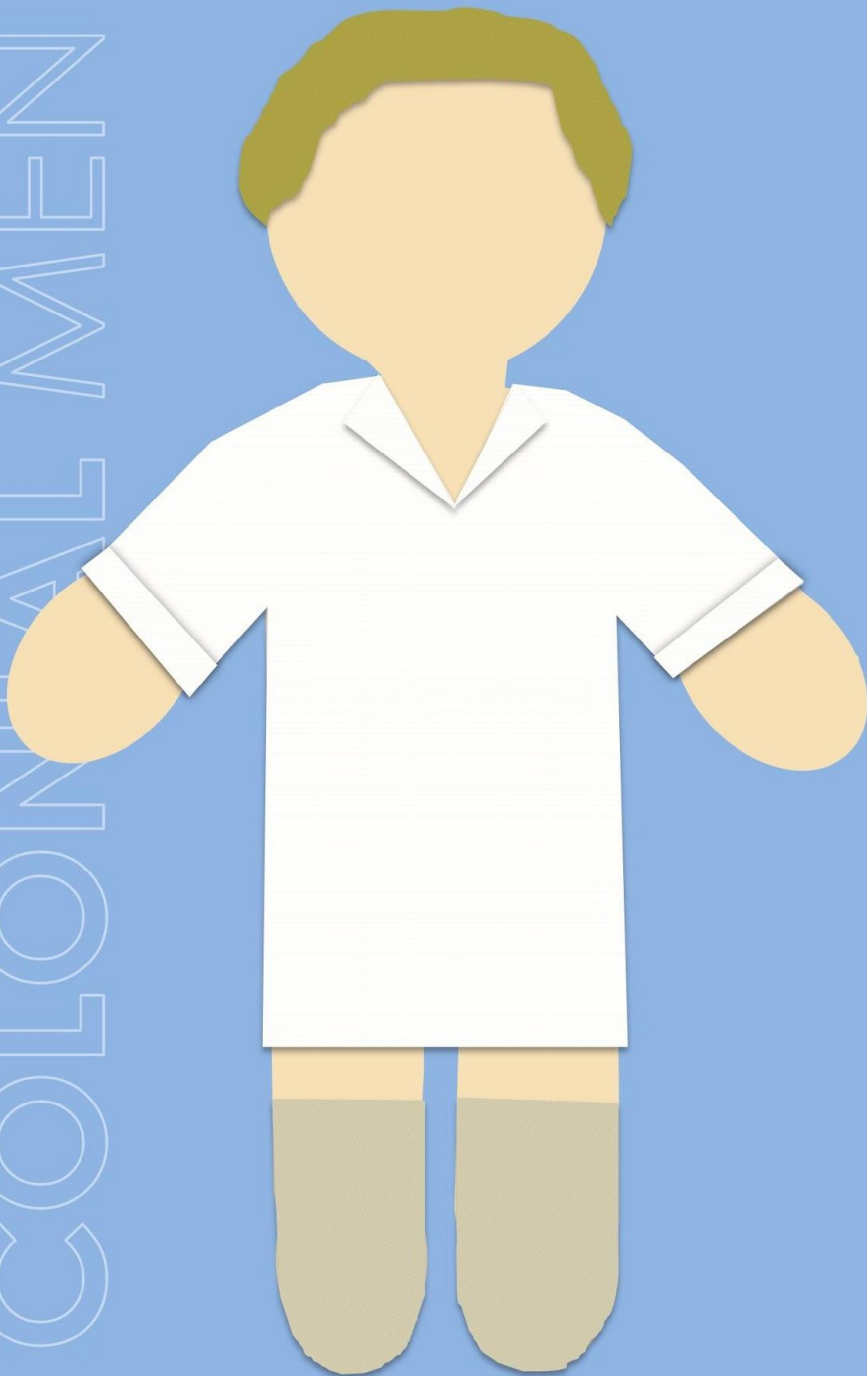






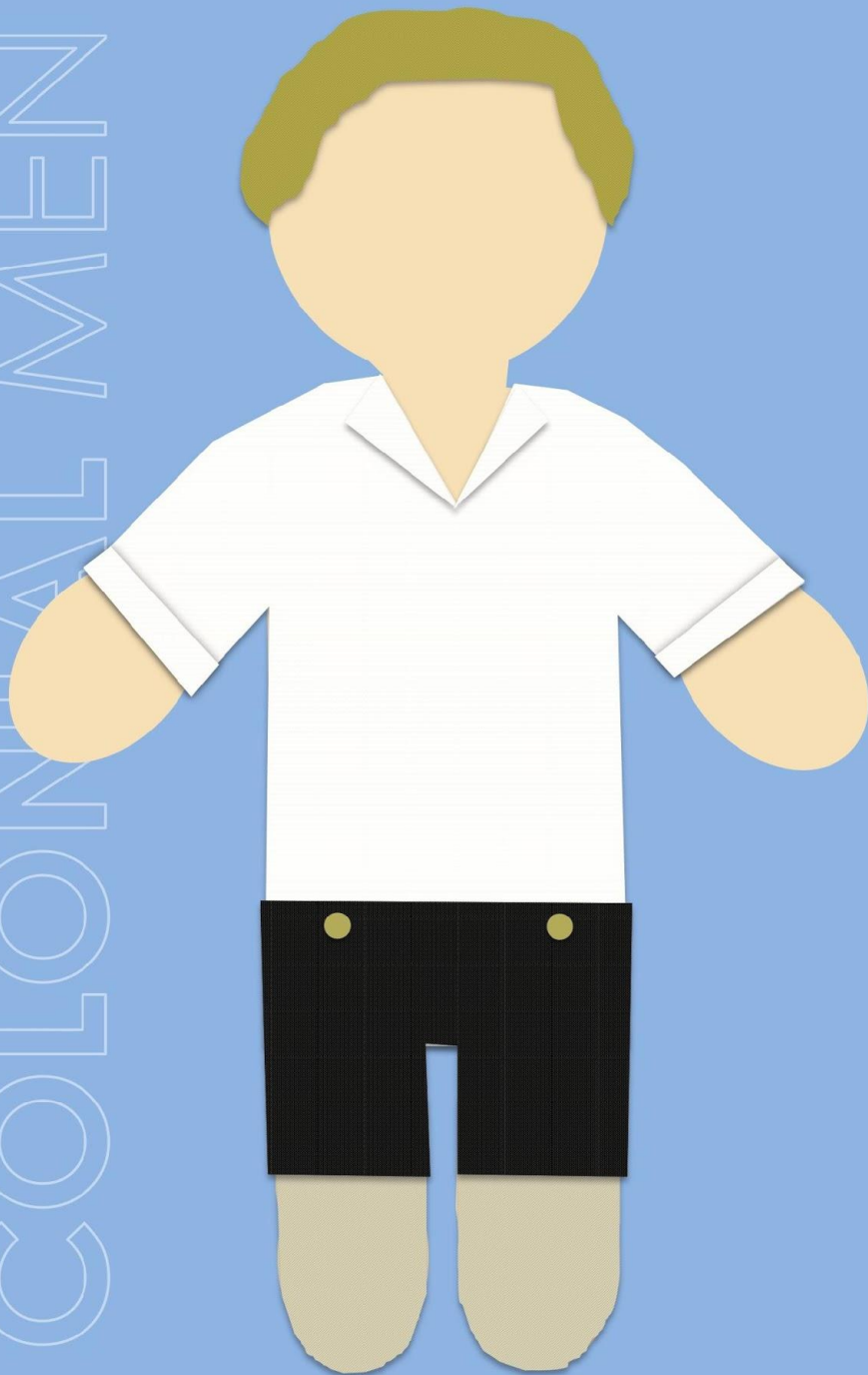
# Linen Shirt

This item of clothing was colonial underwear! Men wore these long shirts to bed and put more items of clothing on top when they woke up in the morning. They tucked them into pants.



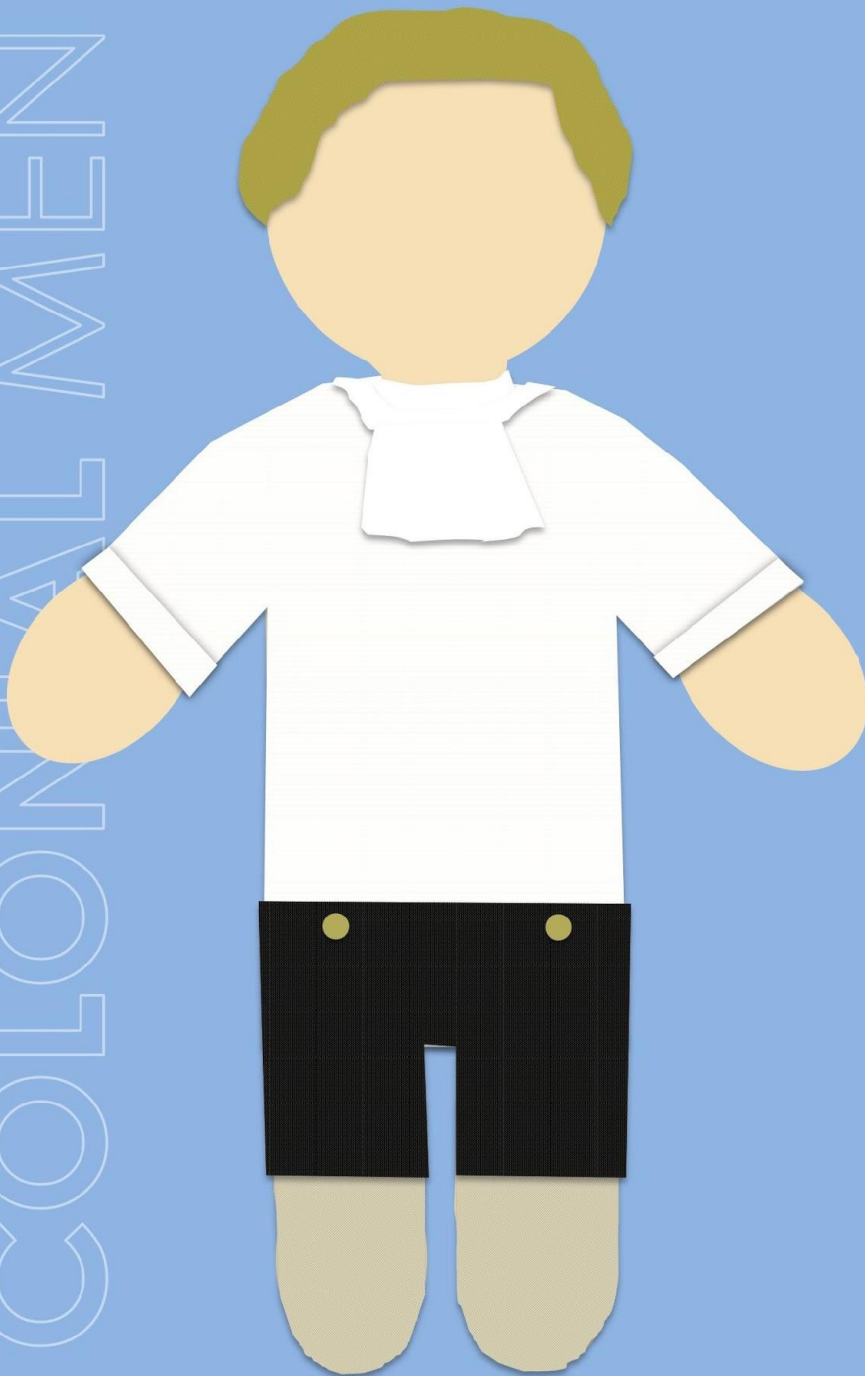
# Stockings

“Stocking” is the fancy colonial name for socks. Colonial socks were knee-high and tied at the top to keep them from falling down.



# Breeches

Breeches were pants worn by colonial men. They stopped mid-calf and occasionally were worn with tall boots



# Neck Kerchief

Neck kerchiefs were accessories worn by working men. Wealthy men wore a similar accessory called a silk cravat.





# Waistcoat

Today, we call this a vest. Colonial men wore them over their white linen shirts.





# Coat

Men wore knee-length coats when they were out and about.



# Shoes

Working men wore leather shoes that were durable.

Wealthy men wore shoes made of soft leather.



# Wig

Wigs were very fashionable. Many men shaved their heads just so they could wear wigs.





# Hat

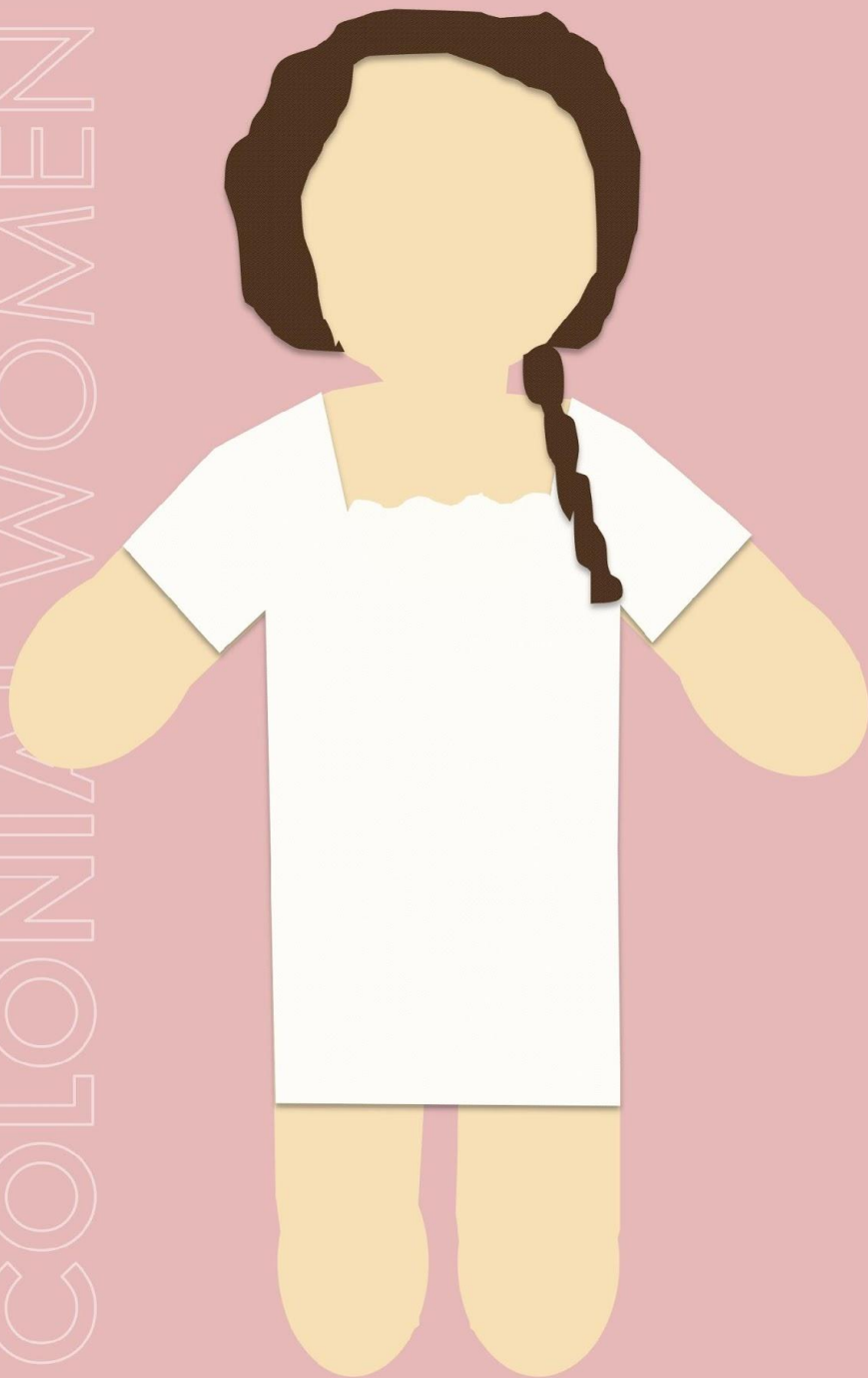
Three-cornered hats were popular for wealthy men. Working men wore straw hats.





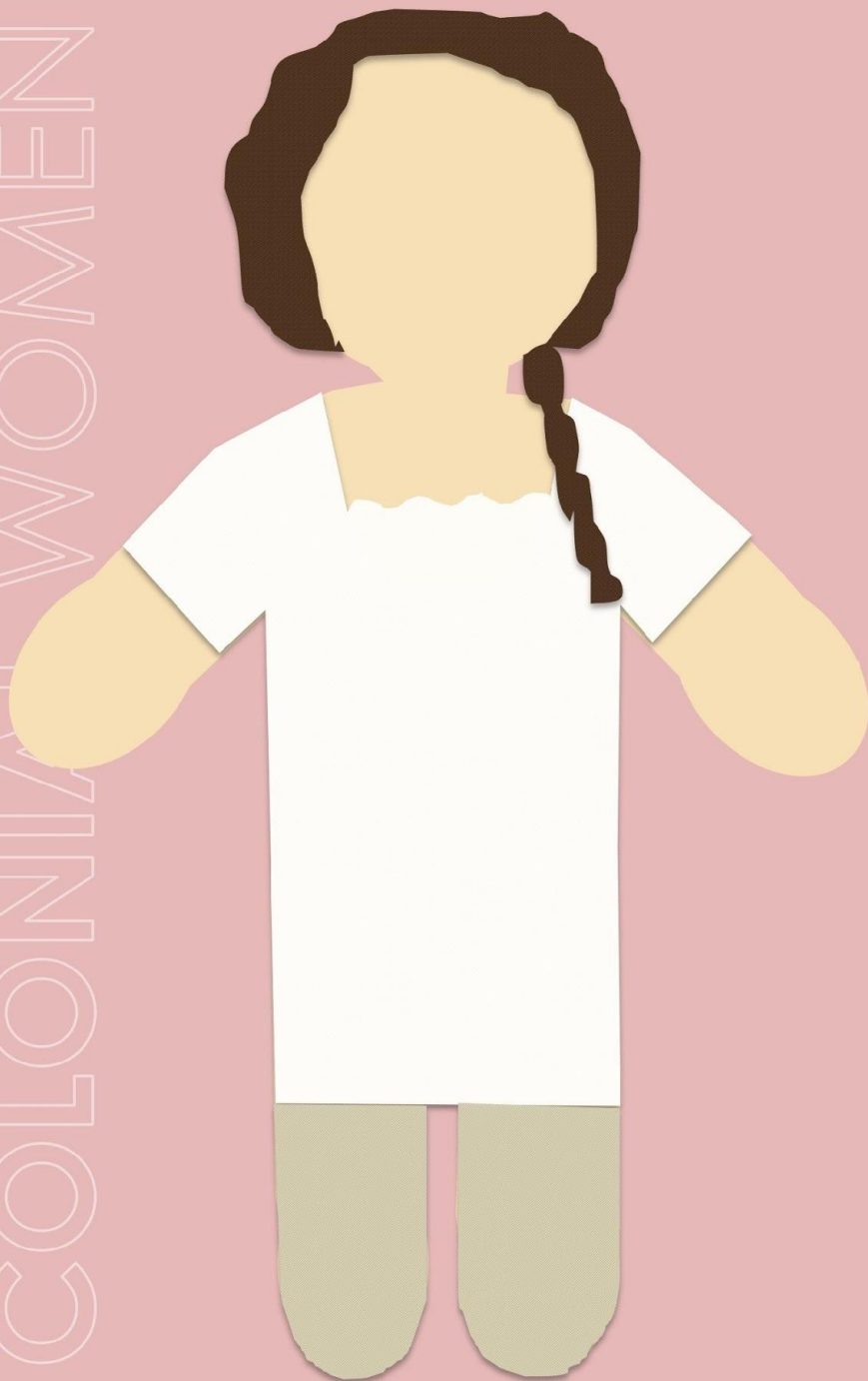
# Walking Sticks

Walking sticks were another popular accessory for men to carry.



## Shift

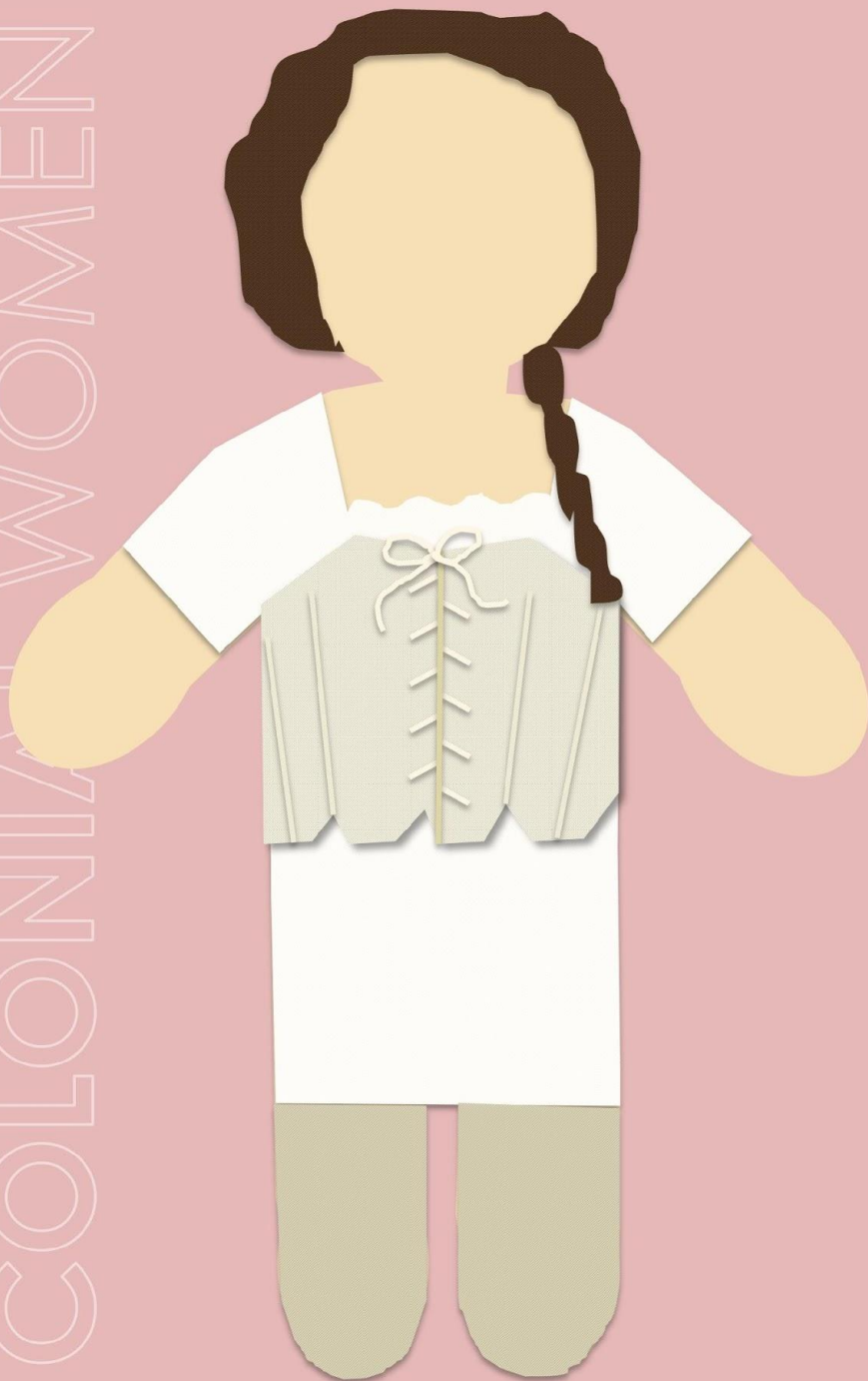
This item of clothing was colonial underwear! Women wore shifts to bed and put more items of clothing on top when they woke up in the morning.



# Stockings

“Stocking” is the fancy colonial name for socks. Colonial socks were knee-high and tied at the top to keep them from falling down.





# Stay

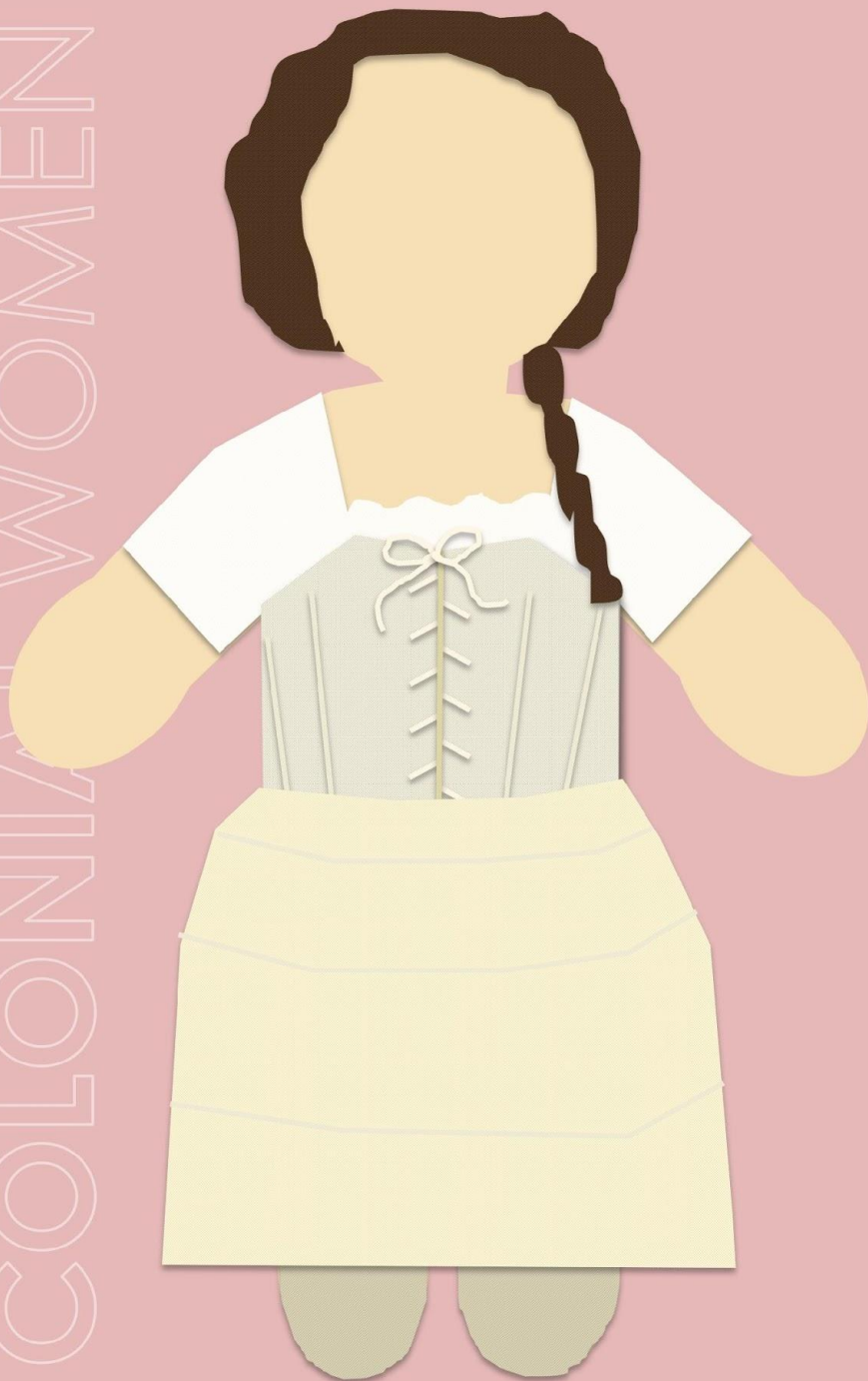
Stays were another type of underwear for colonial women. They were made of strips of metal, wood, or whalebone. Women wore them for good posture and to give their upper body better “shape.”





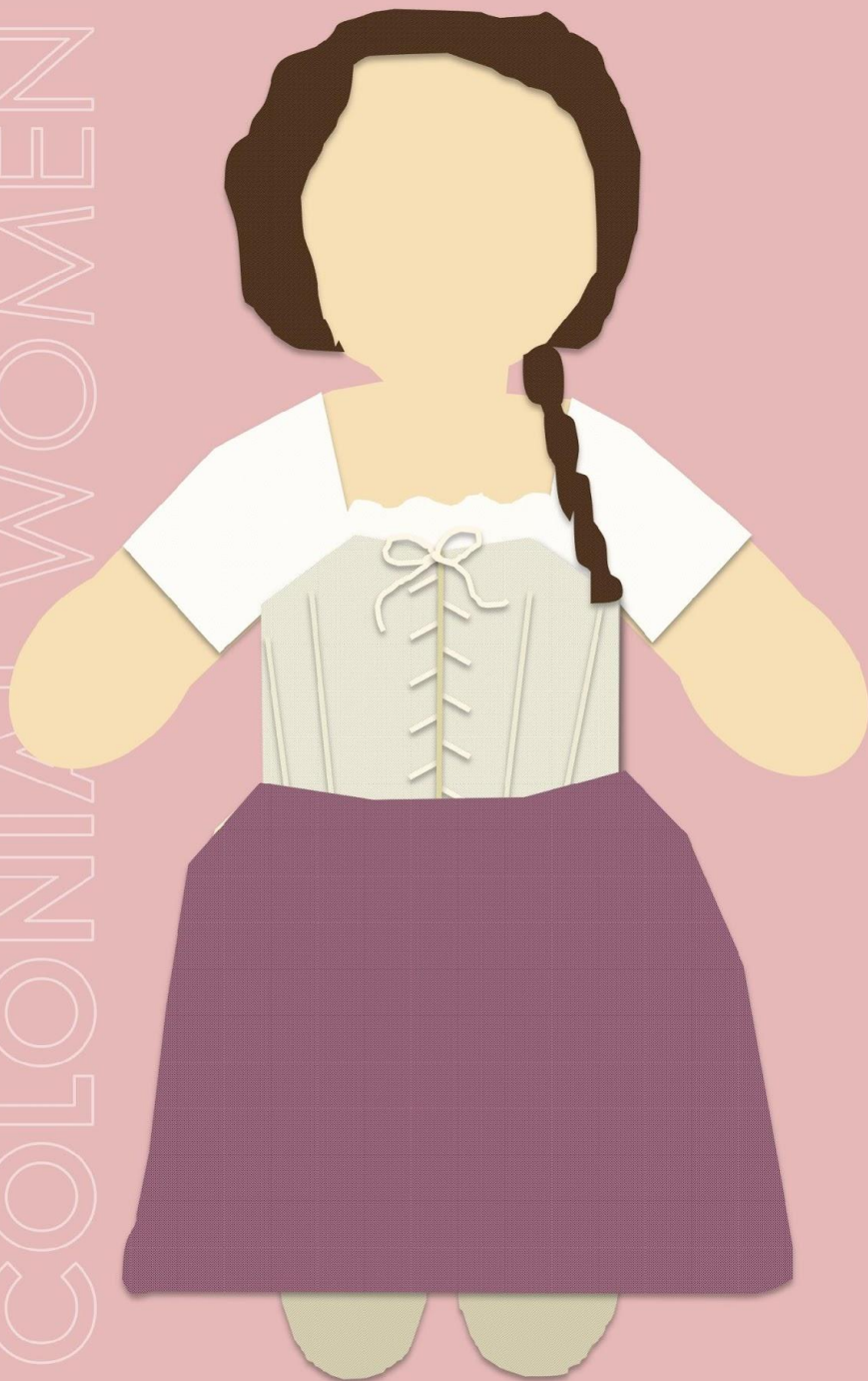
# Pocket

Pockets were little sacks tied around the waist that women wore. They kept personal items in them, such as money. Some women had needlework pockets in case they ended up with some free time.



# Hoop Skirt

Hoop skirts were made to make the gowns women wore look more full. Poor or working class women wore underpetticoats instead of hoop skirts. They served the same purpose though.



# Petticoat

Petticoats were like floor-length skirts. They were another layer of clothing for women to wear.

Petticoats were made of attractive fabric because they were meant to be partially seen under the gown.





# Gown

The gown was the main item of clothing colonial women wore. The gown usually opened up to reveal the petticoat.





# Apron

Although women wear aprons today to protect their clothing, aprons were fashion accessories during colonial times.



# Cap

Women wore caps all the time to keep their hair as clean as possible to avoid having to wash it often.



# Shoes

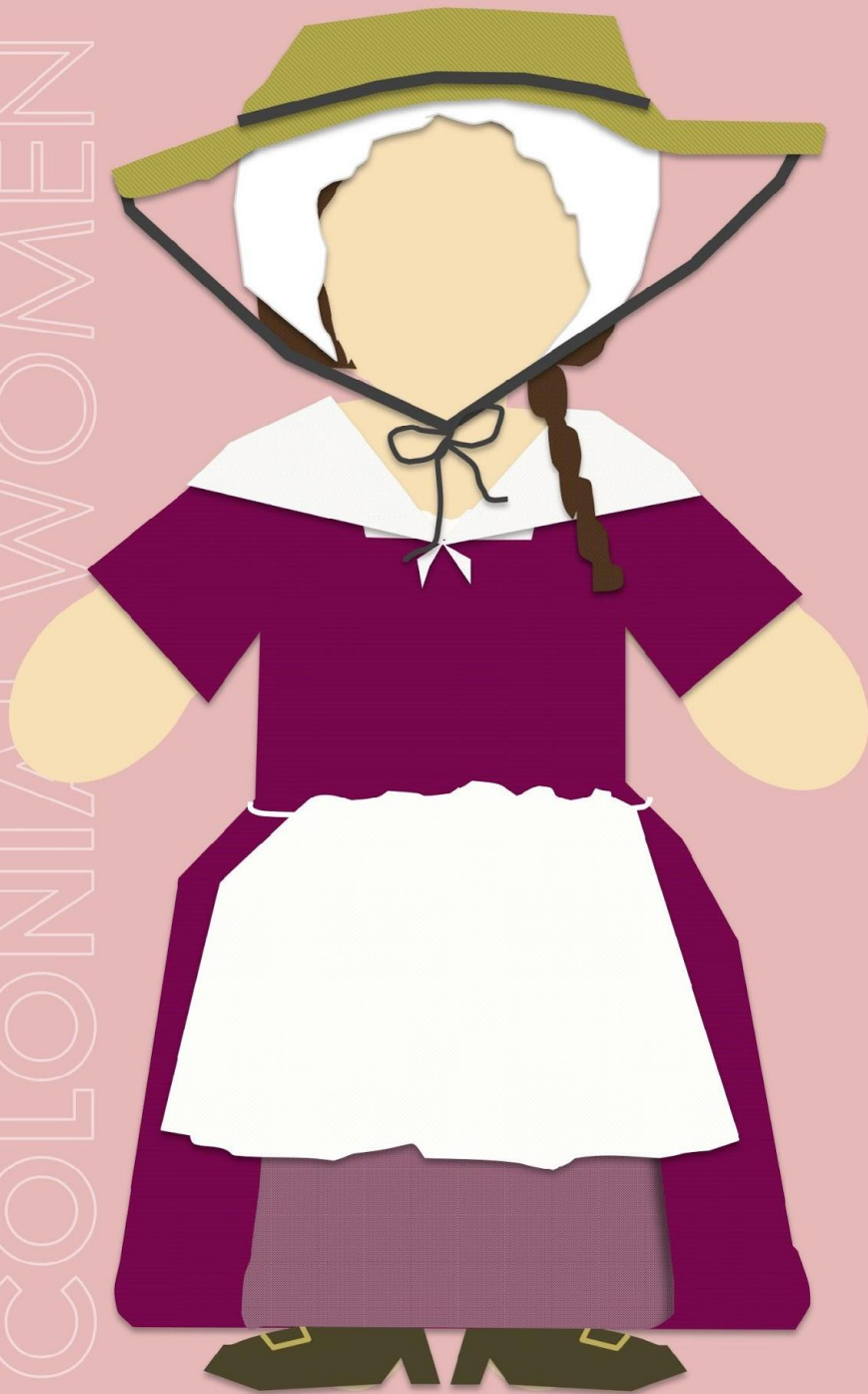
Working women wore leather shoes that were durable. Wealthy women wore often fabric shoes.



# Kerchief

Women draped these over their shoulders for warmth and protection from the sun.





# Hat

Women wore hats over their caps if they went outside.