

Roman Clothing

Learn about Roman clothing, and make your own cut-out Roman man and woman

Instructions

Read the information about the clothes men and women used to wear in Roman times. Then print the figure of the man and woman on card and cut them out. Make the stand to hold them up and cut out the clothing. Finally fold the tabs and put the clothes on your figures: use what you have learned to choose the appropriate colour for each of them.

Have fun!



Roman Clothing

Learn about Male and Female Roman clothing

There is little direct evidence for costume and clothing at Calleva as it rarely survives. Evidence discovered includes a scrap of late Roman plain weave, part of a jerkin of thin leather, fragments of sandals with studded soles or in a moccasin style. Our main evidence comes from statues, carvings and relief, mainly from other sites.

Male clothing

Tunica

An essential item of clothing.

A simple garment made of two pieces of wool, or linen, sewn across the shoulders and down the sides.

Worn loose with a girdle or belt.

Several tunics were worn on top of each other in colder weather.

Long knee breaches, bracae or femina, could also be worn in cold weather.

Toga

Worn by the Roman citizens and important men for special public functions.

Usually made of white or natural-coloured wool.

Never worn by workmen or slaves.

Byrrus Britannicus

A type of thick woollen, or leather, cloak with a hood that was worn in Britain.

Another simple semi-circular cloak, a lacerna, was worn across the shoulders and held by a brooch.

Hairstyles

Changed frequently, and were often influenced by the Emperor's own hairstyle.

It was usually fashionable for men to be clean-shaven.

Underwear

A woollen or linen loincloth knotted around the waist.

Shoes

Leather shoes or sandals. Military soldiers wore hobnailed shoes or boots.

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Female clothing

Tunica

The most commonly worn outer garment.

Made of linen, wool or silk depending on the wealth of the family.

Made in a variety of colours; white, green, blue, saffron, yellow, red or purple.

Belted at the waist with a girdle.

Several tunics were worn on top of each other in cold weather.

Stola

A special type of tunica, made of linen or wool, reaching down to the ankles.

Held together with brooches at the shoulder and belted at the waist.

Palla

A cloak or shawl made of a large rectangular piece of cloth.

Worn to cover the head.

Make-up

Make-up made of white lead or chalk could be applied to whiten the face or arms.

Rouge was used for tinting the cheeks and lips.

Palettes and grinders for cosmetics were found at Calleva.

Jewellery

A wide range of jewellery was found at Calleva including a bronze bracelet, gold rings, bronze brooches and a silver torq.

Hairstyles

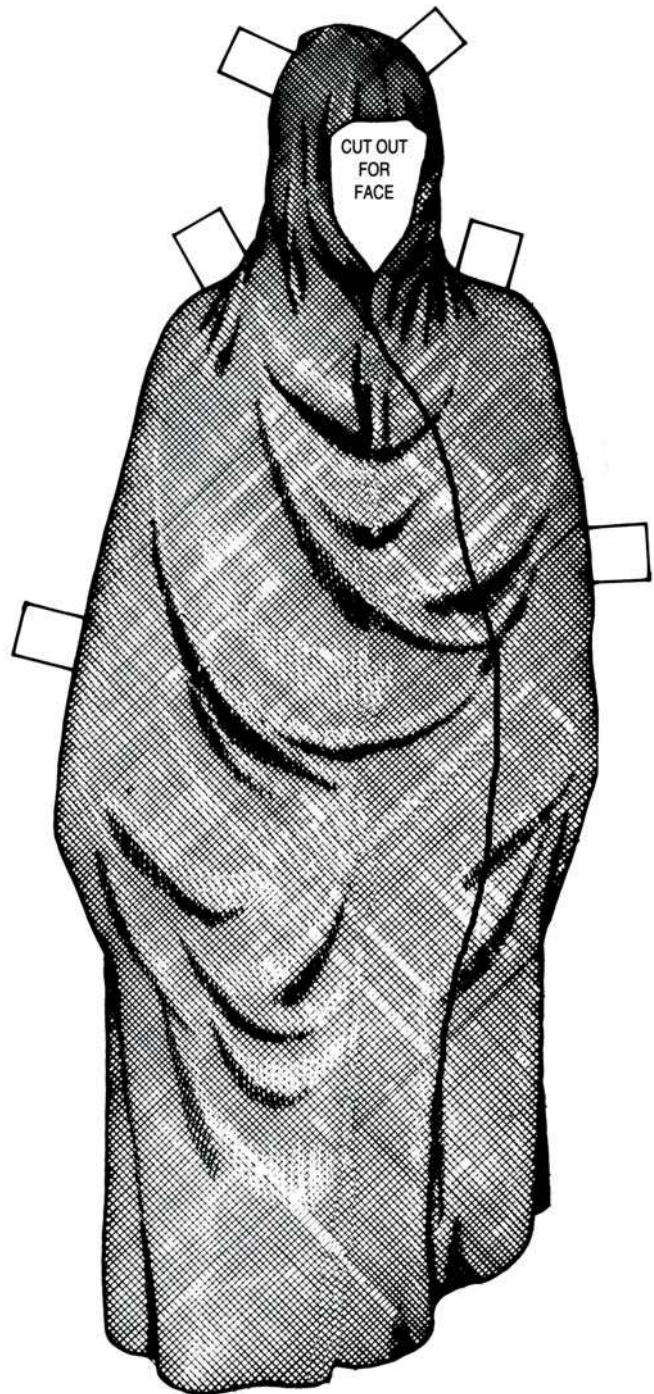
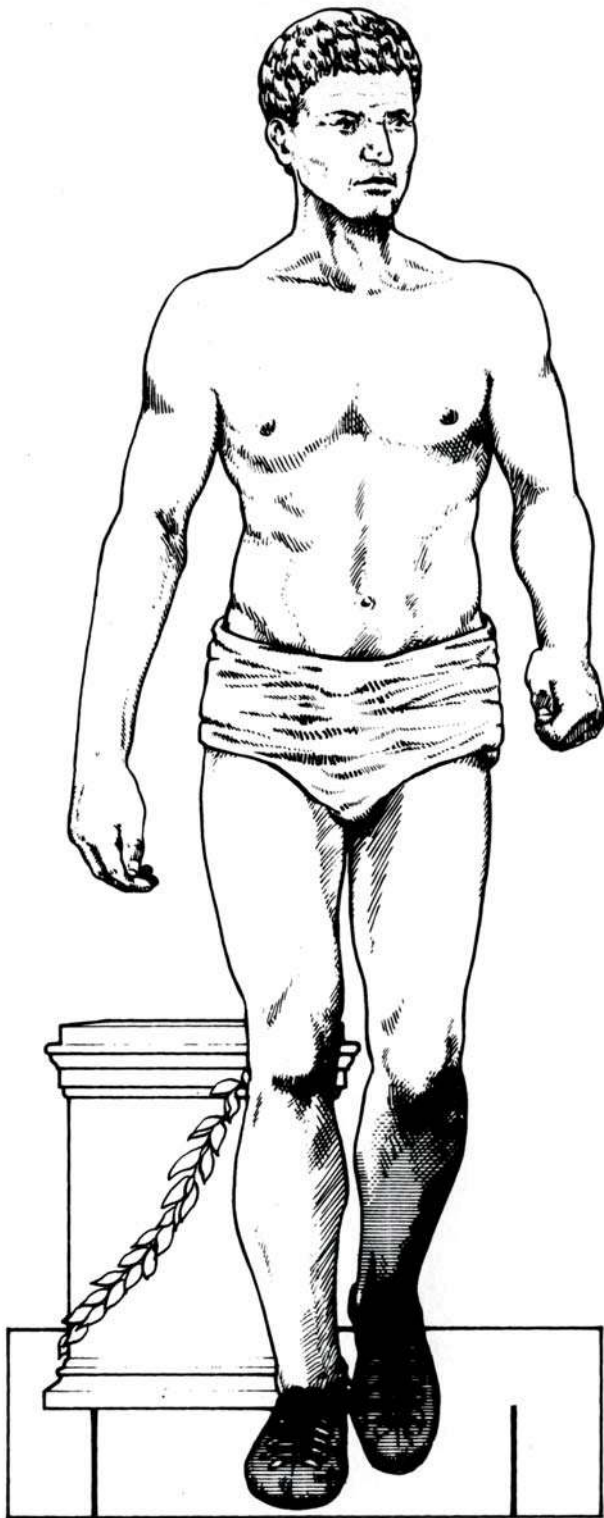
Changed frequently throughout the Roman occupation, and were sometimes elaborate styles made using pins, false hairpieces or wigs.

Underwear

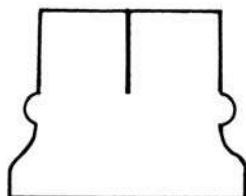
Women probably wore a band of material tied across the bust. Evidence for leather knickers has also been discovered.

Roman Clothing

Print on card, cut out the figures and bend the tabs.

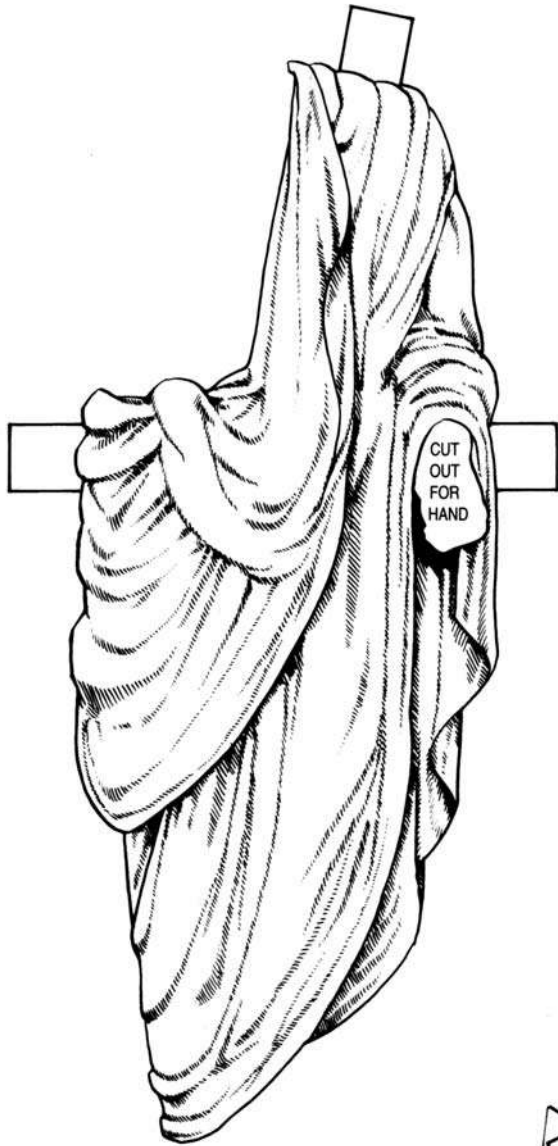


Byrrus Brittanicus



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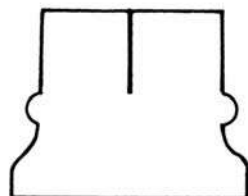
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Toga

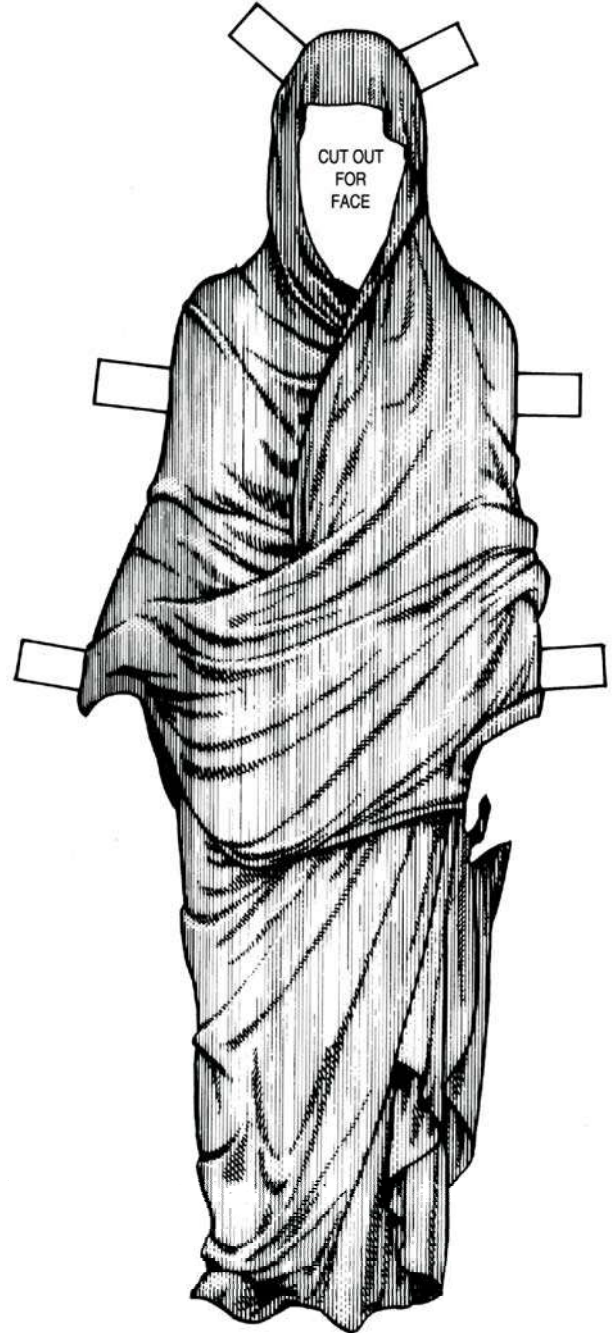
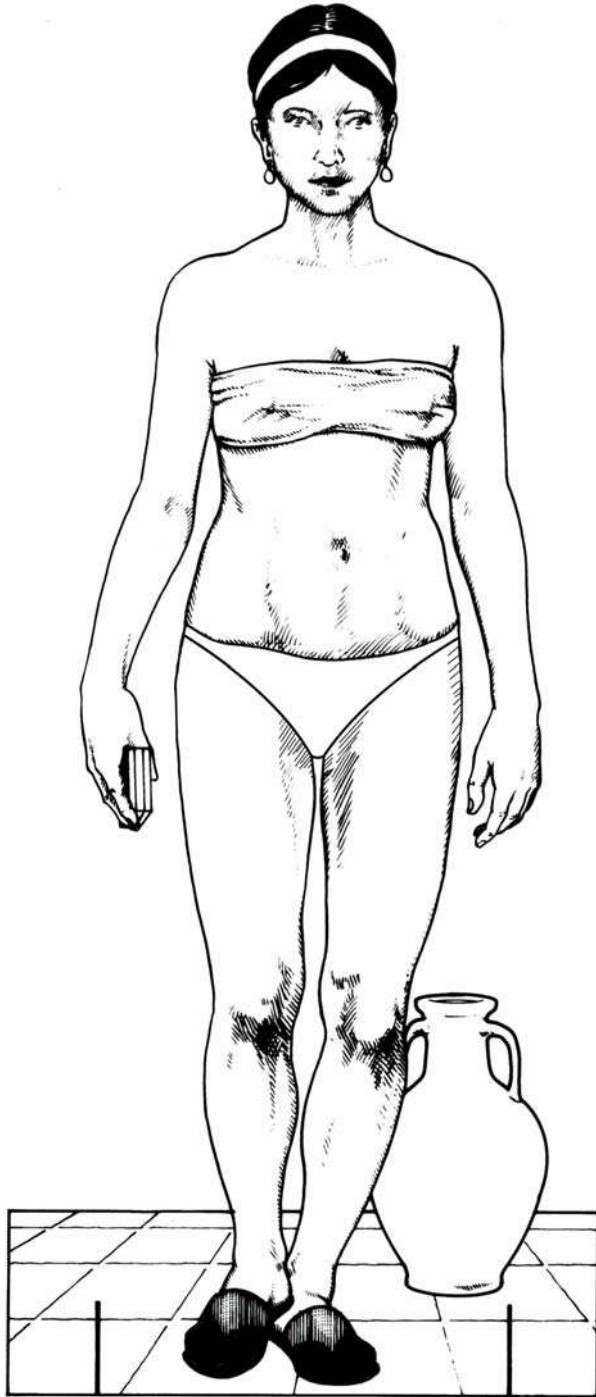


Tunica

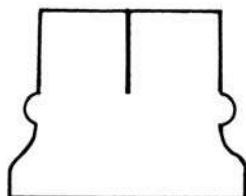


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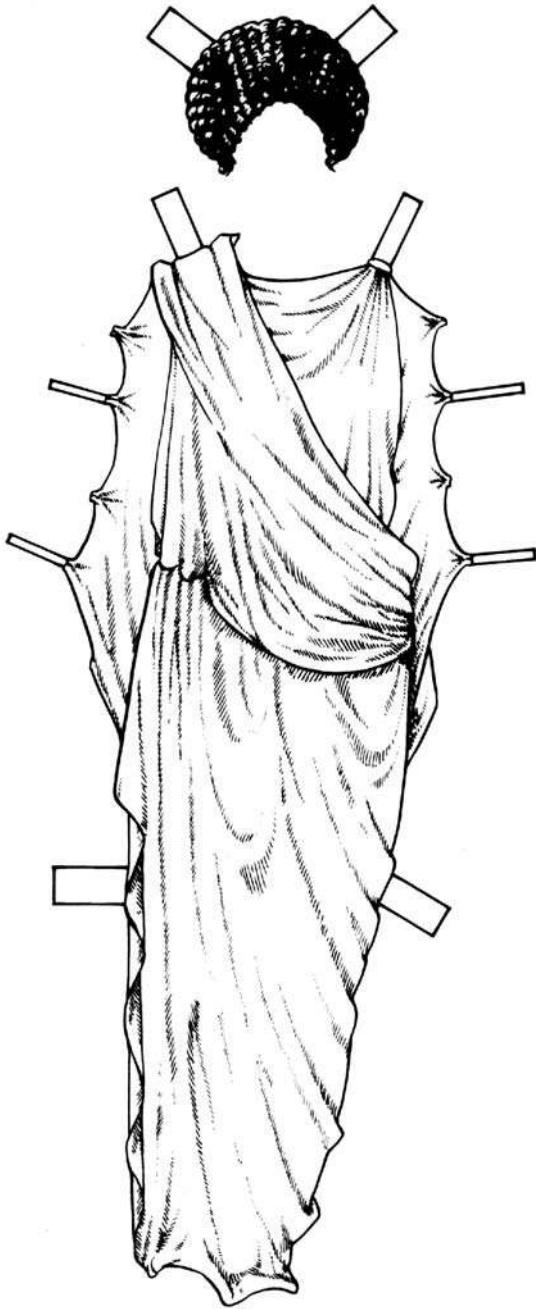


Palla

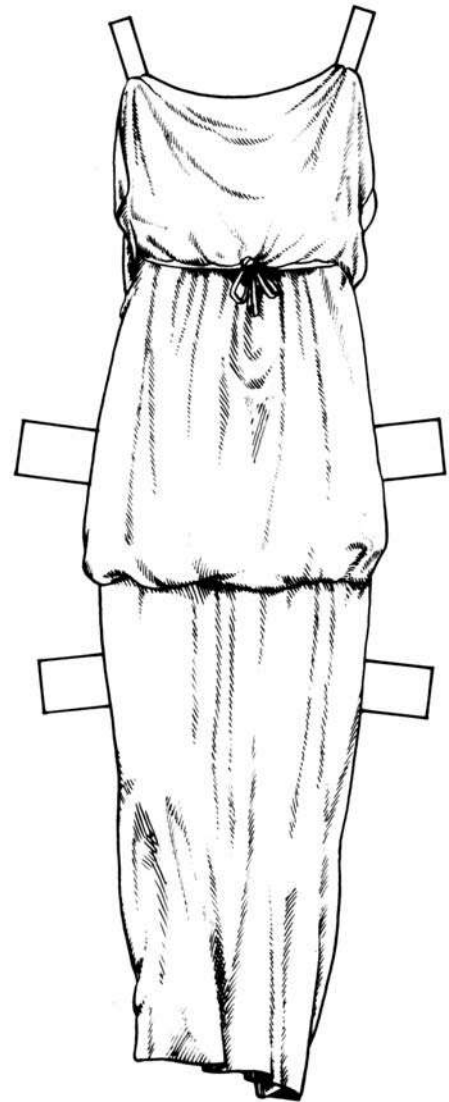


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Stola



Tunica

