

A HISTORY OF COSTUMES

Costumes have been used throughout history by humanity since the ancient Egyptians and have been used in many types of ancient theater. Costumes are also used in pagan religious traditions that continue today across Europe and America. Modern use of costumes includes cosplay and cinema.

1



FUNCTION

THE FUNCTION OF COSTUMES IN HUMAN SOCIETY

Going back into ancient history, costumes have always had an important part in human culture and society.

- Performing arts
- Class identification
- Social role
- Religious ceremonies
- Play

WHO WORE THE FIRST COSTUME?

When costumes were first used by humans, they were used as a form of cosmetics—costume in ancient Egypt was a way for the ancient Egyptians to visually distinguish class and fashion. The ancient Egyptians wore a form of fashion in which men's and women's clothing was visually indistinct, so the costume was a way for people to practice self-expression.

2



THE FIRST

3



WORLDWIDE

NATIONAL COSTUMES AROUND THE WORLD

Along with their use in religious traditions and ancient theater, costumes have also been around for centuries as a way for countries to show off their national identity.

COSTUMES IN THE MODERN AGE

Even though we don't think of them as costumes, people in modern society still use costumes to denote social status too. Think about some of these common costume concepts in society:

- A Wall Street executive in a suit and tie
- A soccer mom in a cashmere sweater
- Letterman jackets used by high school athletes
- Uniforms used by police, priests, and postal workers

4



MODERN AGE

5



POP CULTURE

CONTEMPORARY COSTUMES AND POPULAR CULTURE

As in ancient times, the use of costumes in entertainment has influenced the use of costumes in social expression (and vice versa). Two of the major ways that costumes have influenced popular culture in the 21st century are through their use in both fashion and cinema.

COSTUMES ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF HUMAN HISTORY

The history of costumes runs deeper than cosplay and Halloween. Whether they show up in religious rituals or in a Broadway play, costumes have always had an important part to play in how humanity expresses itself.

6



HISTORY