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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute
1985 Volume VI: Time Machines: Artifacts and Culture

Body Exterior—The Language of Contemporary Fashion

Guide for Curriculum Unit 85.06.03
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Teenage clothing of the mid-1980s is energetic and exciting. This unit discusses issues of adolescent dress: clothing as a form of non-verbal communication, dress representing teenage values, how dress symbolizes a need for autonomy, the recent phenomenon of a teenage style, the historical connection between the teenage dress of the mid-1980s as compared to the 1950s-1960s, and the powerful influence media has upon adolescent styles. Lessons are developed that discuss a methodology of object analysis (1950s Capri pants) and fashion illustration problems that result in a teenage clothing design project. Drawings are included to assist teachers and students.

(Recommended for Art classes, grades 7 through 12)

Key Words

Adolescence American Dress Fashion Fashion Psychology Body Language Contemporary

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