

LESSON FOUR

Traditional Chinese Clothing



Clothing of the Manchu People

Manchus are the second largest ethnic group in China. Manchus, who have lived in the northeastern part of China for a thousand years, have their own language and cultural customs, and they ruled China during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912). Because they were skilled at riding horses and archery, this way of life had a great impact on their clothing. Men wear a long robe covered with a short-breasted jacket (Fig. 1) that often has horse-hoof (mati) shaped sleeves, which are designed for riding and archery (Fig. 2). Women wear wide-sleeved robes that extend to their feet (Fig. 3) over an even longer skirt. The robes are embroidered with natural designs, including on the cuffs and hem. During the Qing Dynasty, Manchu culture merged with Han culture, to produce new styles, including the modern qipao – a long A-line dress with a high collar and slits up the side. Another new style was the Manchu headdress consisting of a small pillbox hat with two large wings, thought to resemble bird wings (Fig. 4). The wings were decorated with silk flowers, dragonflies, butterflies, and the occasional tassel hanging from the side. The shoes of the Manchu women were embroidered silk slippers mounted on a central, hoof-shaped platform up to four inches in height.

Student Activity:

Over the course of these lessons, you will learn about six different Chinese ethnic groups. Choose an ethnic group from those we have briefly described. Research and learn more about your chosen group's clothing, style and traditions.

Recreate OR design your own clothing or accessory (hat, shoes, jewelry, etc.) using the information you have learned.

Submissions can include entire outfits to elaborate hair pins and may be submitted in any of the following forms:

- Doll-sized clothing
- Accessories
- Full sized garments
- Sketches/hand drawn designs

You can submit a photo or document of your traditional Chinese clothing here:

<https://bit.ly/2Zv6D1g>

Teachers! You have a chance to win a \$500 Visa Gift Card when your student(s) enter this contest! Students! You have a chance to win a \$250 Visa Gift Card just by submitting your entry!