

MEDITERRANEAN CLOTHING



Minoan remains indicate that Minoan clothing fit the contours of the body and required knowledge of sewing techniques. Men wore a variety of loin coverings and rarely covered their upper bodies. Women wore tiered, bell-shaped skirts and fitted short-sleeved tops that exposed the breasts. Minoans seemed to idealize tiny waists, and both men and women wore tightly fitted belts, or girdles, that cinched their waists down to a fashionably small size.

The remains of Minoan culture influenced the Mycenaean Greeks who adopted many of their clothing



styles. However, paintings indicate that Mycenaean women did occasionally cover their breasts with a bib

or blouse. By the seventh century BCE, fashions had changed. Instead of tailored clothes, Greeks draped finely woven cloth over and around their bodies to create distinct styles of dress and protective wraps.



Because much of our knowledge of Greek fashions comes from the marble sculptures they left behind, many people once thought that most Greeks wore only white clothes. However, experts have proven using ultraviolet light technology that even the pale marble of the statues was once covered with bright paint that wore off over the centuries. Greeks, in fact, loved color and many dyed their clothes. The most highly prized of all dyes, worn only by wealthy aristocrats or royalty, was called “Tyrian Purple,” and was produced by the Phoenicians in the city of Tyre, made from a species of sea snail.

Source: FashionEncyclopedia.com (adapted)