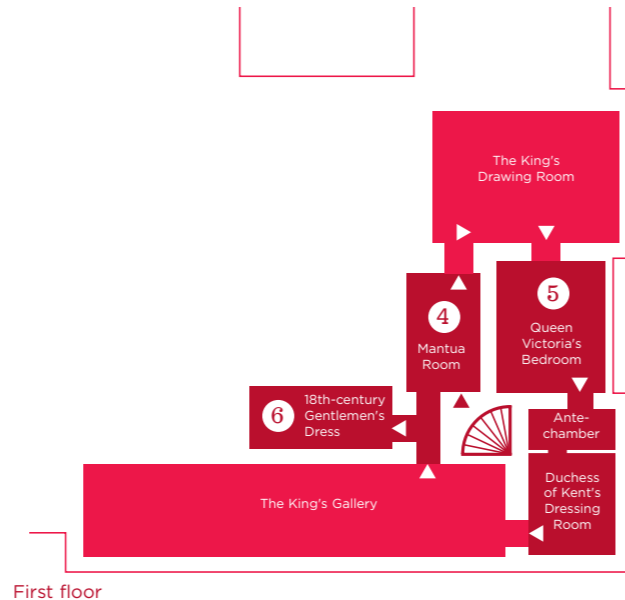
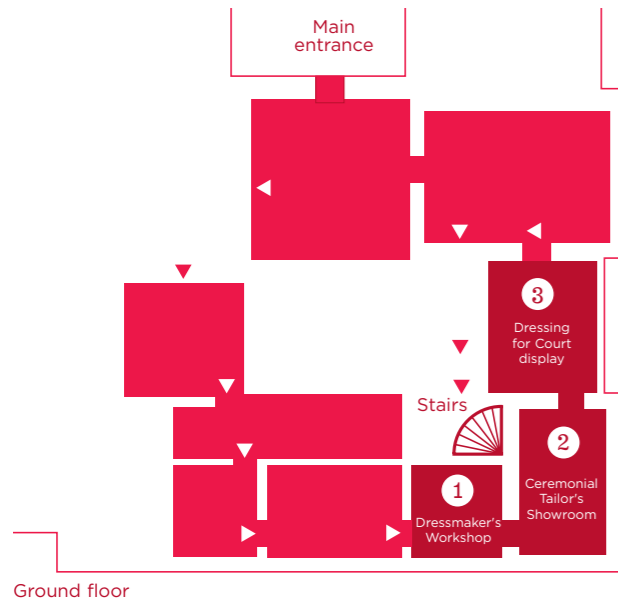


Fashion rules!

Imagine being a member of the royal family a hundred years ago. Discover the secrets behind your fabulous fashions.



Kensington Palace was home to two of the world's most glamorous princesses: Princess Margaret and Diana, Princess of Wales. As this family trail reveals, our royals and aristocrats have always loved high fashion.



Lights down

You will notice that all the rooms on our trail are rather dark. That's because bright lights would damage the rare and delicate fabrics you are about to see.

Step this way for some fantastic fashion fun!



Looking fabulous

We start in the Dressmaker's Workshop, where rich women had their clothes specially made. They dressed to show off their wealth and attract attention. In the centre of the room, you will see an example of the amazing embroidery they adored, all sewn by hand in the finest silk. True or false? Silk thread is made from cocoons of the silk moth caterpillar.

true false

Rich girls, poor girls

The young girls who made such beautiful clothes often worked long hours in terrible conditions for low wages. Many became ill and the poor light damaged their sight. Imagine you were working here and circle the words that describe how you feel.

happy interested
lucky sad bored
hungry warm
tired cold proud

Any old iron

Take a close look at the irons in this room.

Do you know what they were made of?

Can you see where the dressmakers heated them up?

Mystery object

This object is called a bobbin. There are lots of them in this room. Can you find any?



What were the bobbins used for?

What are they made from?

What do you think the beads are for?

Suits you, sir

Next, we come to the Ceremonial Tailor's Showroom where wealthy gentlemen had their clothes made. For a perfect fit, tailors always measured their customers. **When you get home, ask someone to be your customer and write their measurements here. Then ask them to measure you.**

head		
collar		
chest		
waist		
arm		
leg		

Totally tropical

The uniform laid out under the counter was worn in a hot, tropical country. **Why do you think the trousers are white instead of black?**

- the tailor had no black fabric left
- white was a fashionable colour
- white trousers are cool in hot weather

Feel the quality

Feel free to touch the samples of fine cloth displayed along the counter. **How would you describe them?**

- rough heavy
- smooth fashionable
- prickly light
- smart casual

Choose your favourite cloth. What would you make out of it?

Tinned goods

Can you find a black tin with red lining and two items from a gentleman's uniform inside? They are called epaulettes, but where was he supposed to wear them? **Point out the correct place on this figure.**



Feathered friends

Our trail takes us back to the 1920s, where two young ladies are preparing to be presented to King George V. Strict rules meant they had to wear feathers in their hats. **Which bird do you think the feathers came from?**

- chicken
- ostrich
- parrot

Social web

Check out the lady standing in front of the mirror. **Can you see the decoration on her hip? What does it remind you of? Try sketching part of it here.**

Solid gold

Opposite the ladies, we see Sir Eric Phipps getting dressed to visit the royal court. You can tell how important he was from all the gold braid he's wearing. The strange hat that Sir Eric's servant is holding is only for show. It was considered very rude for men to cover their heads when visiting the king or queen.

Legging it

No wonder Sir Eric needed a servant to help him get dressed. He even had to wear two pairs of stockings. **Do you know why?**

- the palace was freezing
- to stop the hairs on his legs poking out
- the first pair was torn

Long live the Queen

Now follow the trail and take the staircase up to the next floor. It was on these stairs in 1837 that a young Princess Victoria first heard that she was to become Queen of England. She went on to rule for nearly 64 years. Victoria was born in this palace. Later on this trail you will see some of the rooms she grew up in.

Fashion crazy

Yes! Someone actually wore the bizarre dress in the first room we come to. It's made of French silk brocade, it's nearly 250 years old and it's called a mantua. Rich women wore dresses like this to show off their wealth. **What do you think is holding it up?**

- two little girls
- scaffolding
- whalebone hoops

Bad dress day

Imagine you had to wear a mantua to school. List the problems you might encounter, starting at your bedroom door!



Victoria's palace

The trail now takes you through some of the rooms where Princess Victoria lived. **As you wander through them, see how many of these you can spot.**

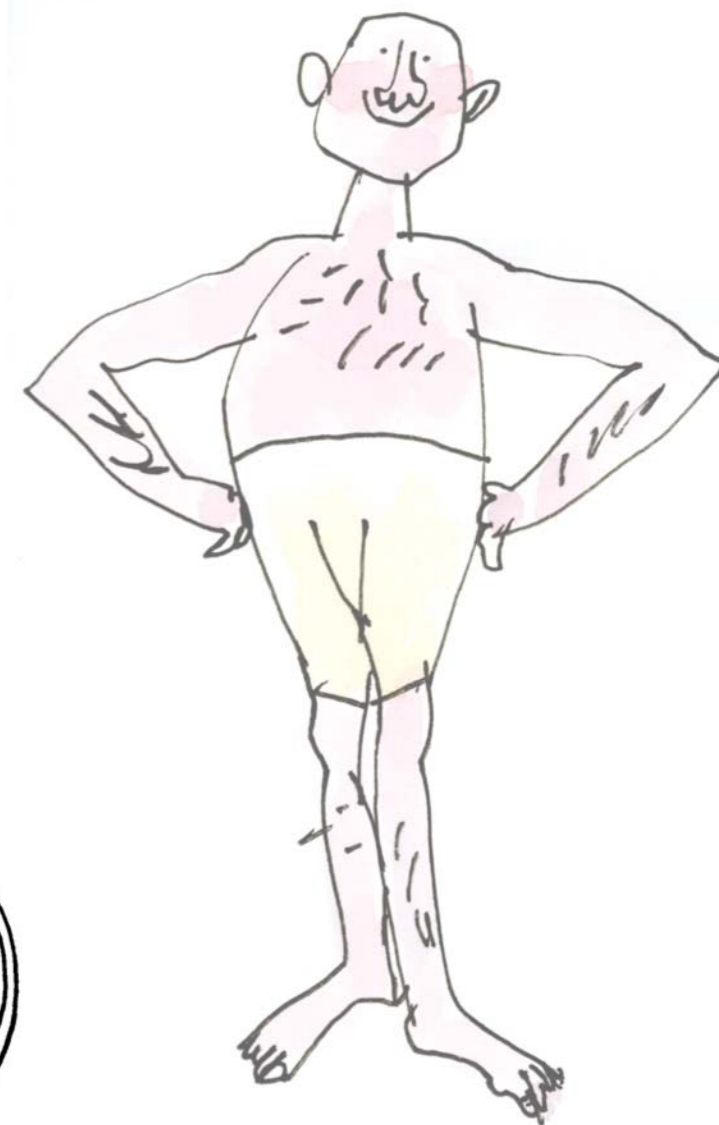
a circular pond	
a wall of birds	
a palace of glass	
a princess's portrait	
a queen's initials	
a loving seat	

Top man

When you reach the King's Gallery take the first right into the 18th-century Gentlemen's Dress display. Believe it or not, all the clothes in this room are part of just one costume - all worn at once! **Choose your favourite items from this display and use them to dress this gentleman.** Don't forget to give him a wig and a fine pair of shoes. What is your 18th century gentleman called? Give him a name and write it here.

Watch it

Imagine how much time wealthy gentlemen spent just getting dressed! **Search this room for a gent's watch and draw the time it shows here.**



Dressed to impress

You've been invited to the royal ball – but you've got nothing to wear! At home, use this space to design an outfit for your big night. Feel inspired by the fashions you saw on this trail, or create a totally original design. You could even make a collage using fabric or pictures from magazines.



Answers

P2. True.

P2. They are made of iron and heated up on the fire.

P2. They were used for making lace. They are made from wood and glass.

The beads are to help tell the bobbins apart.

P3. White trousers were cooler.

P3. Epaulettes are worn on his shoulders.

P4. Ostrich.

P4. Spider's web.

P4. To stop the hairs on his legs poking out.

P5. Whalebone hoops.

P5. Look out for:

The view of the Round Pond from the King's Drawing Room.

The hand-painted wallpaper in Queen Victoria's Bedroom.

The picture of the Crystal Palace in the Antechamber.

The portrait of Princess Victoria in the Antechamber.

VR on the fireplace in the Duchess of Kent's Dressing Room, where you will also find Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's joined up chairs.

P6. The time on the watch is nine minutes to seven.

Illustrations by Tim Archbold

For more information visit www.hrp.org.uk