

CLOTHES AND HAIRSTYLES

You know what it's like. All you want to do is leave the house so you can get to that new zombie-themed ice cream parlour – the one that does **BRAIN SUNDAES** – but Mum and Dad are taking **aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaages** getting ready.

Mum's spent roughly **FIVE YEARS** so far putting her make-up on, while Dad's making sure his "cool" new jacket is zipped-up *just* right and his hair is brushed at a special angle so it hides that **SHINY BALD BIT** on top of his noggin.

It's a **MAHOOSIVE** pain in the bottom waiting for grown-ups to get ready . . . but if **YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT IT BAD**, just say a big-old "thanks bro" that you weren't kicking around in the days of ancient Rome.



Back then, your parents could have taken a lot longer to get their hair styled perfectly, and your mum's make-up might have left you reaching for a **SICK BUCKET!**

For instance, bear fat was used to make hair grow, while a mixture made from **ANTS' EGGS** was used to blacken women's eyebrows. Some people even used a lovely face cream made from – wait for it – **SQUISHED SUN-DRIED SNAILS** mixed into a bean broth! If you think that's bad, at least **SNAIL FACE CREAM** couldn't kill you. Many other face creams contained lead, a type of poisonous metal that can build up in the body over time causing brain damage and even death!





A Roman woman's hair was very important to her. So much so that special slaves were trained to look after their mistresses' lovely locks. And if a woman didn't have enough hairy stuff on her headbox for her liking, she could simply pop a **BIG WIG** on.

These allowed women to achieve the super-tall styles that were popular during certain periods in ancient Rome. The writer Juvenal even compared them to multistorey buildings! Imagine how long it would take your mum to build a **SKYSCRAPER** on her head.

FANCY THAT!

Roman emperors didn't want to be thought of as kings, so they didn't wear golden crowns. Instead, they popped laurel wreaths on their heads to symbolize their success and power. Why not try wrapping some twigs round your coconut and telling your pals that you're **SUPER-POWERFUL**?



Your dad might slap some hair gel on, but at least he doesn't sprinkle **GOLD DUST** on his thatch, which is what the Emperor Lucius Verus did to make himself appear blonder than he actually was.

Very nice until it rained — then it was bye-bye golden hair, hello golden **FACE**.



And if your dad is a bit funny about going grey, nowadays he just has to dye his hair. But back in ancient Rome, some people wore a paste on their heads at night that was made from ground herbs and **EARTHWORMS** to keep the grey away!

If you think that sounds bad, **PIGEON POOP** was used to lighten hair, and to dye hair black the writer Pliny the Elder reckoned rubbing in **LEECHES** that had been rotted in red wine for 40 days was the way to go!



Oh, and if you have a little case of head lice (nothing to be ashamed of — happens to lots of peeps), while some (sensible) ancient Romans used lice combs, others used **GOAT DUNG** to combat the annoying little beasties instead!

What about clothing? Are you bored with your togs? Fed up with that tracksuit? Sick of the sight of your hoodie? Had it up to here with the same old t-shirt?

Well, at least you **HAVE** clothes to choose from.

Back in ancient Rome it was pretty much toga-land as far as the eye could see. Your choice was basically a toga or a tunic. Or perhaps a tunic or a toga, if you were feeling particularly funky.

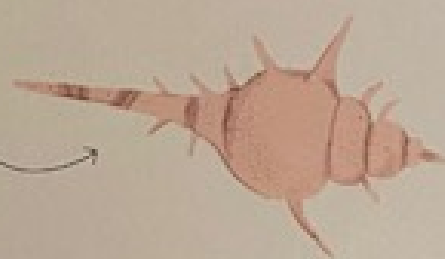


Most Roman clothing was made of wool or linen, although rich folk also had access to **EXPENSIVE** silk from China or high-quality Egyptian cotton. Many Roman clothes could be quite colourful, although purple clothes were only for the super-important or super-rich. The expensive purple dye was made by crushing the shells of thousands of **Murex SEA SNAILS**.

You're totally going to play with this, aren't you?



MUREX SEA SNAIL



Girls wore a long tunic that reached their feet, while boys wore a shorter tunic, sometimes with stripy socks.

The most important day in a boy's life was when he was given his *toga virilis*, which marked his transition from childhood to being a man. He would give up all his childhood toys at the same time.

That's like hitting your teens and getting a new pair of grown-up tweed trousers but having to bin your games console and skateboard. Sounds **AWFUL!**