

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



MUSIC: A MELODIC METHODOLOGY INTO TEACHING AND LEARNING

2018-1-ES01-KA229-050761_5
SCHOOL EXCHANGE PARTNERSHIP

LANDSCAPE AND TRADITIONAL COSTUMES

- The Greek folk and traditional costumes vary in color, and, quite often, they display a vivid imagination in the way the different items are worn. The hundreds of embroideries and ornaments give them a special characteristic. Nowadays, these costumes are worn on National celebrations, during performances or on other special occasions. The long Ottoman occupation has led to differentiation and alienation of these costumes, as the lack of financial sources and the lack of raw material limited the options and alternatives. However, in their accounts, European travellers who travelled to the Greek island were stunned by the costumes.
- The costumes also reveal information about the person wearing them, that is if the woman is married, single, widow, what her husband's occupation is, and, of course, the social status. The character and attitude are revealed through the way some elements are worn. For example, they wear the *Sagias* (a kind of apron) in a different way when they go to church (more conservative) than when they go to a wedding.
- The main streams of the costumes are those of the Islands, the mainland, Macedonia, Pontos, Minor Asia, Crete

1. Islands of the Aegean

Since the inhabitants of most of the Aegean islands dealt with commerce, they had the money and the goods needed to manufacture elegant and sophisticated costumes. They imported fabrics from Russia, Padova, Genova, Austria. The weather is usually warm, so fabrics like silk are popular



2. The mainland

Even though the costumes doffer in terms of design, the materials used are more or less the same. The distance from the commercial centers and the Turkish occupation, made the Greeks of these regions use what they had, in order to make their clothes. Of course their first priority was to keep themselves warm. Therefore, they processed the wool from their animals and weaved warm fabrics. They used to make numerous items, worn one on other, as underwear or petticoats



3. Macedonia

The characteristic element of this costume is the “helmet”. According to the tradition, Alexander the great was stunned by the women’s bravery during the battle, when the men backed off. Therefore he changed the roles and ordered that the women wore the helmet. Through the years it changed and became more sophisticated and filled with ornaments.



Македонија

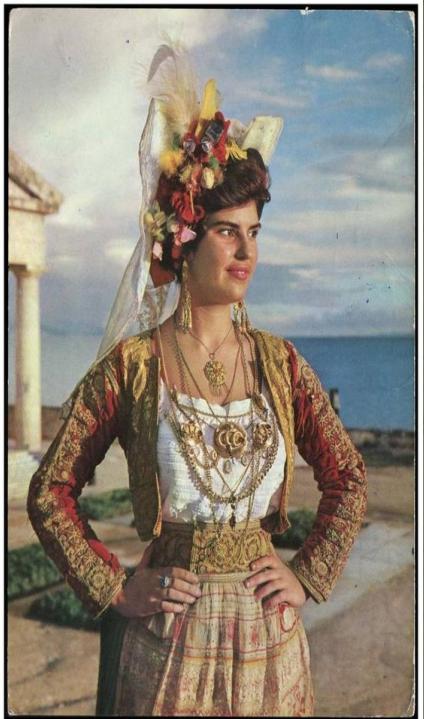


europeana
festival
of
cultural
heritage

4. Corfu and Ionian Islands

The women's costumes were divided into two categories: the everyday ones, which were made of durable materials and the ones that they wore on special occasions and celebrations. Just like in other areas, the costumes indicated the marital status or the financial status. They were colorful with flowers and ribbons.

The men's costumes were more serious-like. They wore a straw hat, a cotton shirt and a "vraka", a kind of baggy trousers.



Phagreco







5. Crete

- After the conquer of Crete by the Venetians, continue to wear the byzantine type of clothing for two centuries. Through the years, however, they were influenced by the venetian fashion, depending on their status. The most characteristic element of the male costume is the “Vraka”, the baggy trousers, which is said to have been brought by the pirates of Tunis or Algeria. They adopted this kind of clothing, to have the time to escape when their ships were attacked by the pirates, as the pirates would think of the Cretans being some of them.
- The Cretans made boots from their animals’ skin, not because it was cold, but because it was the only way to cross those rocky mountains that Crete has.
- The Cretan women adopted the “vraka” too, but they added an embroidered apron. It is amazing, though, how much their costume resembles the way ancient Cretan women used to dress, according to findings during excavations.







