AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE HISTORY OF TRADITIONAL FASHION

The topic of the project is traditional fashion and its impacts and meanings in the modern days. Specifically, how different cultures have similarities in fashion traditions and self-expression through clothing. This area of interaction is chosen for the project because people usually look and investigate the differences in cultures, but it is important to see their resemblances, especially from the days of the past.

This project is created for the international community specifically in our school to make everyone praise the diversities and similarities of our cultures and also to make us aware of them not only in hobbies or food preferences but the sameness within our communities that go way back in time.

The goal is to create a modern clothing piece that will combine two cultures that are somehow relatable to us. I chose Ukrainian and African cultures. Since I am Ukrainian and have more knowledge about my own culture, I decided to choose it to compare it with a culture that I don’t know much about. African culture interested me because I like to learn how to dance all the different dances from African countries and I love the music. In order to achieve this I made a fashion piece that includes patterns and elements from traditional costumes. My global context is Personal and cultural expression because people used clothing to express themselves in any century at any time.

I have prior knowledge in this area as I have seen some images from Ukrainian history in literature books that show what people wore. I also used to do Ukrainian national dance for 6 years, which introduced me to the culture’s authentic costumes. Prior knowledge for making clothing I got from art class and some members from my family who used to create different wear from a variety of materials and fabrics.
In Kiev, Ukraine, I visited an exhibition called “In Progress”. It was a fashion project of the Ukrainian dress-code during the independence times. The exhibition was a story of the community, country and people. It really inspired me and gave me a lot of knowledge and ideas for my product. The project was challenging for me because I’ve never designed clothing before and it was difficult to put two cultures that have so much in them in one small piece. One of the resources that I thought was really significant, was a book (Kara-Vasylyeva, Tetyana. *Ukrainska Vishivka: Albom*. Mystectvo, 1993.). It had a short history of the ornaments and examples of what they represented and why they were made. Other resources that I’ve used were internet web-sites in both Ukrainian and English languages.

The first stage of my project was to brainstorm the different options for designing the product and what patterns to use and what they would mean/represent for the audience. Then I started sketching the different options. I looked at patterns that meant something to me and could represent not only myself but my generation. When I was drawing, I saw what I liked best and decided on my final idea. The jacket has Ukrainian embroidery from Kiev’s region and two African patterns. One reflects the love of relatives and community, where the circle represents the household and the dot is the family. This pattern represents the unity. The other pattern represents a belt that was worn by warriors when they went to fight. It shows braveness and fearlessness. When deciding what colors will be used, I tried to find the ones that had similar meanings in both cultures to show the similarities of the community. For example, in both nations, red is a festive color that has a powerful effect to it. It is also one of the most popular colors that can be seen in the ornaments. After finalizing my idea, I started sewing on the embroidery. I used a machine. After I was done with the Ukrainian part of my product, I used fabric markers to paint on the jacket. I decided to add lace near the embroidery to make the jacket stand out more. The lace that I used was once part of a Ukrainian, old, traditional table cloth.

One of the self-management skills that I practiced quite a lot was overcoming distractions. The other important skill that I used was to plan out important assignments and deadlines.
My final product was a denim jacket that combined elements of Ukrainian and African cultures. In response to my goal I joined traditional fashion from very different places and found similarities in them. The patterns complimented each other and added an interesting meaning to the piece. I created an original product on history of traditional fashion which is one of my interests. The jacket has an embroidery pattern on both sides of the sleeves in red, white, grey and black colors and white lace on the top and the bottom of the embroidery. The African symbols are drawn also on the sleeves above the Ukrainian part of the jacket and at the back.

One of the criteria was to provide a viewer with an original, cultural but yet modern piece of clothing and 6 people that were asked, said that they would wear the product. Some were also able to understand what cultures were being incorporated. One of the other criteria was to make sure that the product is interesting to look at and visually appealing. The people who were asked had positive feedback on the way the product is presented and some said that they found it interesting how the two cultures are combined in one piece.

Completing this project extended my understanding of the topic in a significant way because now I know different traditional clothing pieces not only in different cultures but also regions and what all of them mean. The research helped me learn the differences and similarities of historical costumes and make my project more relatable to the audience because of combining completely different cultures in one thing.

Inquirers - the IB learner profile was used quite a lot throughout the whole project because research was one of the key elements to succeed. Throughout the project I investigated the history of cultural fashion and techniques of how to show it on the piece of clothing. It was important to learn not only independently but ask others who might have more experience at certain things. For example, when I started sewing, I asked for a bit of help from a person who is a professional sewer, at the beginning because I didn’t have that much experience with it before, only the basics.

Knowledgeable - developing understanding of the topic throughout the past month was crucial to be able to understand what was worn earlier and what it meant
and how to do something. Without knowing what patterns there are in African culture, I wouldn’t be able to paint something meaningful from Ukrainian culture on the jacket.

**Open-minded** - it is always good to stay open-minded especially to be able to understand different points of view and different types of information that is being found. Especially since my topic included two cultures it was useful to be able to appreciate their traditions and meanings.

**Risk-takers** - when learning about something new and then trying to create it it's good to challenge yourself and take risks to be able to achieve the set goal. For example, when I was sketching the ideas, they looked interesting, but it didn’t mean that the jacket would look exactly the same and at the beginning. I was not sure what colors would correspond with each other. The risk here would be to create something that doesn’t have a meaning and that doesn’t look aesthetic. Also understanding of the purpose from the audience was important which was also one of my criteria specifications.

**Reflective** - when developing anything its essential to reflect on what was done and how to improve it. Taking suggestions from others and their opinion and self-reflecting is a key to a good result.

**References**

*Ukrainian part:*


*African part:*


*Embroidery part:*

Over Seventy Years of Fashion History - How Fashions Have Changed Since the 1920s. It is amazing to see how the different events in history have influenced and changed the way people have dressed throughout time. Some of the most popular fashions are classic, they can stand the test of time and hardly ever "go out of style", only experiencing minor changes to keep up with the trends. Other clothing items could be considered "fads", styles that are only popular for a short season and then never worn again. Often certain fashion trends are dependent on the tastes of particular Home History & Culture The History of Traditional Chinese Pants. The History of Traditional Chinese Pants. By. Yoga. Traditional Chinese pants can be divided into two types: one is called Kun(裈) and the other is called Ku(🂤). traditional Chinese pants in ancient paintings from the Ming Dynasty. Kun(裈). Kun is an ancient underpants with the crotch, according to the present archaeological evidence, Kun can be traced back to the late Neolithic. It can be divided into two types. This can also be confirmed by a comprehensive investigation of historical relics and documents. Therefore, the use of crotch pants mainly depends on the climate, not the nation. Many nomadic people in the north of Asia still have the habit of using leather Ku in autumn and winter. The traditional dress of the Herero women in Namibia is an adaptation of Victorian dress, as worn by the German colonists they fought in a bloody conflict at the start of the twentieth century, and now retained as a proud part of Herero identity. The silhouette is distinctive: a full, floor-length skirt, fitted bodice with puffed sleeve, with a magnificent horn-shaped hat, the shape of cattle horns, completing the look. For men this means the gho, a knee-length gown tied at the waist by a belt called a keram. For formal occasions a silk scarf, a kabney, is added to the ensemble, the colour of which depends on the wearer’s status. For the women, traditional dress is typically an ankle-length dress called a kira, and the equivalent scarf is called a rachus. Bowler hats, Bolivia. History of fashion design refers specifically to the development of the purpose and intention behind garments, shoes and accessories, and their design and construction. The modern industry, based around firms or fashion houses run by individual designers, started in the 19th century with Charles Frederick Worth who, beginning in 1858, was the first designer to have his label sewn into the garments he created. A History of Fashion and Costume The Ancient World. Jane Bingham. Introduction This volume traces the history of costume from the last Ice Age, when people first started wearing clothes, to the collapse of the Roman Empire in the late fifth century CE. Divided into chapters according to region, it outlines the early history of costume from prehistoric times to the emergence of the first cities, and surveys the succession of civilizations that grew up in the Middle East. To help them reconstruct the practices of ancient people, archaeologists also study traditional groups, such as the aboriginals of Australia and the Inuit of Alaska, who have followed the same basic way of life for thousands of years. First Civilizations. Even in the earliest civilizations, color and pattern were very important.