



THE ROCOCO ERA

France, c.1700-1800

The Enlightenment

- The beginning of the 18th century saw the rise of a new movement of thought known as the **Enlightenment**, which valued reason over authority.
- In France, Paris became the new center of creativity and art. The educated **bourgeoisie**, or middle class, met in Parisian cafés and salons for thought-provoking discussions and debates and became very influential.
- The position of the bourgeoisie meant their influence would reach not only the nobility and royalty, but also the lower, working classes. Therefore, fashion trends affected nearly everyone and not just the wealthy.
- Louis XV's mistress Madame de Pompadour is considered one of the biggest icons of this era. She adored pastel colors and the light, happy style which came to be known as **Rococo**. Light stripes and floral designs were also popular at this time.
- Later, Marie Antoinette became the symbol of French fashion, as did her dressmaker Rose Bertin. Extreme extravagance was her trademark, which ended up majorly fanning the flames of the French Revolution.



Madame de Pompadour

Women

- **Panniers**

- wide hoops worn under the skirt that extended sideways
- extremely wide panniers were worn to formal occasions
- smaller ones were worn in everyday settings





- **Corsets**

- a French word meaning "a kind of laced bodice"
- evolved from the stays
- waists were tightly constricted by corsets, provided contrasts to the wide skirts

- **Pagoda Sleeves**

- arose about halfway through the 18th century
- tight from shoulder to elbow and ended with flared lace and ribbons



- **Robe à la Française**

- tight bodice
- low-cut square neckline, usually with large ribbon bows down the front
- wide panniers
- lavishly trimmed with lace, ribbon, and flowers





- **Robe à l'Anglais**

- a snug bodice with a full skirt
- worn without panniers
- usually cut a bit longer in the back to form a small train
- often some type of lace kerchief was worn around the neckline
- often worn with short, wide-lapeled jackets modeled after men's redingotes



- **Women's Shoes**

- Heels became more decorative and slimmer
- Stripes and floral pattern fabrics
- Trimmed in lace and ribbons

Men



- **Habit à la Française**

- The common attire of men during this period
- This was an entire outfit including:

- **Coat**

- worn close to the body in Rococo Era

- **Waistcoat**

- most decorative piece, usually lavishly embroidered or displaying patterned fabrics

- **Breeches**

- Breeches usually stopped at the knee, with white stockings worn underneath

- **Jabots**

- Lace neckwear
 - Predecessor to the men's necktie

- **Shoes**

- heeled
 - usually with large square buckles





- **Tricorne Hats**

- Became popular during this period
- Often edged with braid and decorated with ostrich feathers

- **Wigs**

- Commonly worn by men
- Preferably white in color
- **Cadogan** style of men's hair developed and became popular during the period
 - Notable for the horizontal rolls of hair over the ears



Draw The Figures Below for Your Notes:

