

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

Tudor Era: Circa 1500-1600



'Elizabeth I' Dress

History

Who was Elizabeth I?

Elizabeth I was the last monarch in the long Tudor family dynasty. She was Queen of England from 1558-1603. She was the second daughter of King Henry VIII by Anne Boleyn. Her reign, known as the 'Elizabethan Era', was a period of relative stability for the English nation. She was on the throne for one of the great naval victories by the British Navy, the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588.

Elizabeth never married, despite having multiple suitors. Her virginity set her apart from many other rulers, and she was known as the 'Virgin Queen'. When Walter Raleigh was granted a charter to found a colony in the New World, it was decided to name the colony 'Virginia' after Elizabeth, the Virgin Queen.

Fashion

This dress was inspired by a portrait of Elizabeth I at the age of 13. It is very similar to what would have been worn by women during the Tudor period. Dresses during this time were worn over stays, and were elaborately decorated with gold and jewels. Dresses were also worn over a small hoopskirt known as a Spanish 'Farthingale'.

What is a 'French Hood'?

A 'hood' is a headdress that was worn during the Tudor period and earlier. There were several styles that were worn in different countries. The 'English Hood' is also known as the 'Gable' style. The French Hood was a more rounded style than the English. Elizabeth I's mother, Anne Boleyn, preferred the French style to the English, and made it popular. Most portraits of Elizabeth picture her wearing her mother's style.

