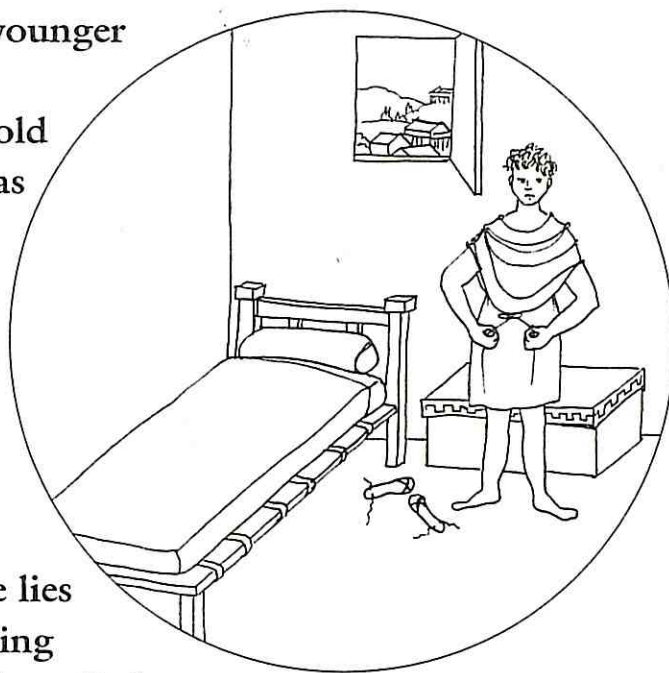


Like his younger sister, twelve-year-old Alexander has his own bedroom, which he shares with Myron.

When Alexander wakes up, he lies in bed thinking about what he will do

today. He is looking forward to the athletic contests. He hopes to buy a present for Helen's birthday, which is next week. And he can hardly wait for the great feast his family will share with the whole city tonight on top of the Acropolis.

Penelope calls to Alexander that it is time to get up. Alexander pulls on his linen chiton. He combs his hair and runs down the wooden stairs to the kitchen.



GREEK CLOTHES

As an ancient Greek, you wore simple clothes made from linen or wool cloth. If you were a man or a boy, you wore a straight tunic called a chiton. It ended at the knee, and was pinned at the shoulders and belted at the waist. As a woman or girl, you wore an ankle-length chiton. Over it you often wore a long gown called a peplos.

Both men and women wore a woolen cloak called a **himation** (him-MAT-tee-un). Ancient Greeks usually went barefoot or wore sandals. For exercising and playing sports, men wore no clothes, and women wore a short chiton or nothing at all.

ACTIVITY

CHITON

The chiton worn by men and boys ended at the knee. In this activity, you'll make a short chiton, like Alexander's.

Greek boys and men often wore the chiton so that it covered only one shoulder, leaving the other bare. To make a one-shouldered chiton, undo the four pins at one shoulder, letting the extra cloth drape inside the tunic.

MATERIALS

scissors

white sheet or tablecloth

yardstick (meterstick)

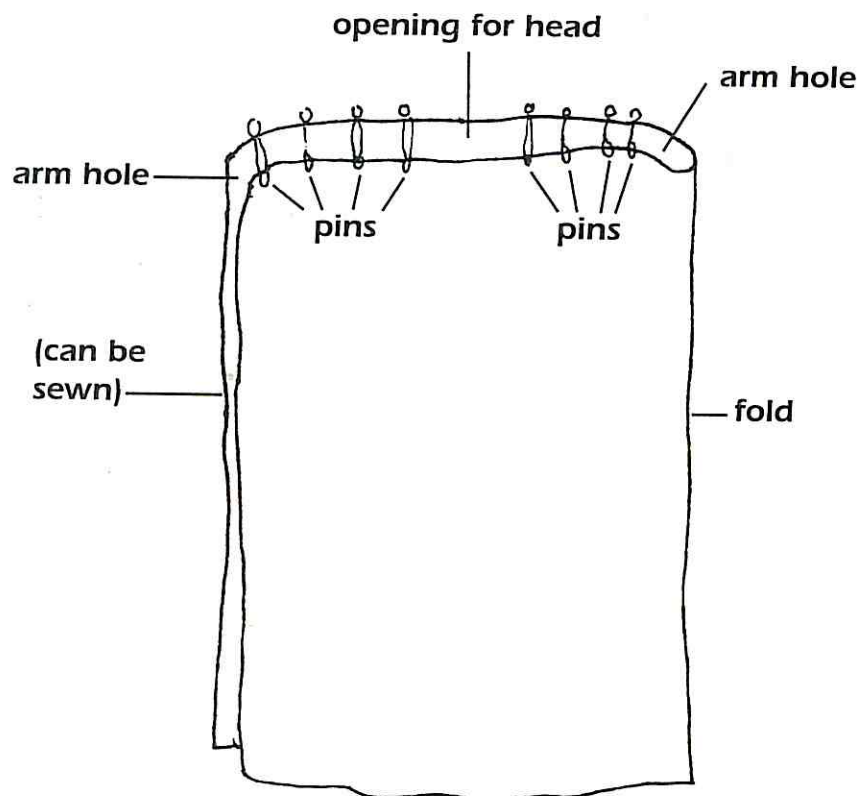
8 diaper pins or large safety pins

needle and thread (optional)

3-foot (1-m) piece of rope

adult helper (if using needle and thread)

1. Cut the sheet to about 6 x 4 feet (2 x 1.3 m).
2. Fold the sheet in half lengthwise. Hold the sheet so that the fold runs down the side, as in the picture.
3. Use the pins to fasten the two halves of the sheet together. Fasten four pins at each shoulder as shown, leaving an opening in the middle for your head.



4. (Optional step) Have the adult help you use the needle and thread to sew the open side together.

5. Put on the chiton.

6. Tie the rope around your waist as a belt, then pull up the cloth above your waist, so that the chiton ends at your knees.

