

Let's imagine: undress cap

Each week the Museum is going to publish a 'Let's Imagine' activity sheet. This activity sheet will include a picture of an object in the Museum. It will tell you about the object and then it will be up to you to imagine a story, poem and/or picture inspired by this object. The sheet will include at least three questions or statements to help get you started and inspired.

This week's object is an **undress cap** that can be found in the permanent exhibition. Read the information in blue below to find out more about this type of cap.



You have to describe this cap to a friend. What do you say?

Draw an outline of a cap or hat and then make a pattern or design inside the outline.

Write a story or poem about being transported back to 17th century England. Imagine you meet a gentleman in an undress cap. Interview him about the 'pros' and 'cons' of wearing this type of cap.

This is a gentleman's undress cap of undyed linen embroidered with blackwork and gold thread, designed with curled tendrils of fruit and flowers. The turnback cuff is edged with gold thread lace and decorated with spangles. It dates from the mid seventeenth century (1600s) and was owned by someone called Sir Benjamin, who was a poet and Member of Parliament (MP).

By the mid to late seventeenth century, more and more men were wearing these caps. They were often worn by bald (naturally or deliberately) men, when they were not wearing the long wigs that were very fashionable at the time. They were also popular to wear in the home as they were effective in keeping out the cold. Early ones were called 'night caps' and although they would be worn at night, they were also worn indoors during the day. They remained popular headgear with gentlemen until the early nineteenth century.