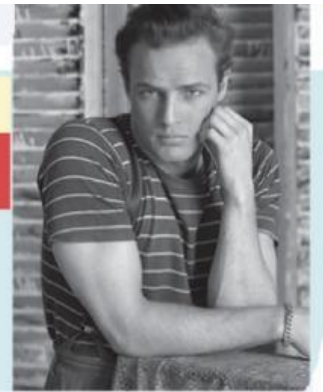




The All-American Fashion:

THE T-SHIRT



The history of the American T-shirt goes back to World War I when American troops noticed European soldiers wearing a comfortable, lightweight cotton undershirt during the hot and humid summer days.

The European soldiers dealt with the heat by stripping off to their undershirts while the American soldiers stifled in their hot woolen uniforms. The undershirts quickly caught on with the Americans. The "T-shirt" got its name because of its simple design resembling the letter T.

By the 1920s, the T-shirt had become an official word in American English and was included in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary. By World War II, both the U.S. Navy and Army had included the T-shirt as a standard piece of underwear.

Initially the T-shirt was worn exclusively as an undergarment, but that changed in the 1950s. The fame of the T-shirt skyrocketed when actors John Wayne, Marlon Brando, and James Dean wore their underwear on the big screen. In 1951, Marlon Brando caused a sensation in his film *A Streetcar Named Desire* when his T-shirt was ripped off his body to reveal his naked chest. Then James Dean made the T-shirt a contemporary symbol of rebellious youth in the movie *Rebel without a Cause*. It became fashionably cool to wear it as an outer garment.

In the 1960s, the T-shirt became a means of self-expression, as well as to send advertising messages and protests. People began to dye and screen print the basic cotton T-shirt, making it an even bigger commercial success. Advances in printing and dying allowed more variety in the look of the T-shirt, and various styles in the cut of T-shirt, such as the tank top and V-neck, came in to fashion. The T-shirt was inexpensive, stylish, and could make any statement you cared to print on it. The American T-shirt came into its own in the late sixties. Rock 'n' roll bands realized that they could make significant amounts of money selling T-shirts printed with the name of their group. Professional sports followed the bands' example, and soon the officially licensed team T-shirt became hot merchandise.

Over the decades, some designs have become classics such as the yellow happy face, the Rolling Stones' tongue and lips logo, and the many variants of I

The simple, cheap ten-dollar T-shirt has proved a fantastic medium for changing fashions: from the T-shirts with antiwar slogans of the sixties, to the huge oversized T-shirts of the 80s, and the tight tees of the 90s, right up to the designer brands of the twenty-first century, which can cost thousands of dollars. The image of the T-shirt as an outerwear and fashion item is now firmly established, and long gone are the days of the T-shirt as underwear.

Vocabulary :

- troops (n.): (ทหาร)
- humid (adj.): (ชื้น)
- stifle (v.): (ทำให้หายใจลำบาก)
- initially (adv.): (ในตอนแรก)
- exclusively (adv.): (พิเศษ)
- skyrocket (v.): (เพิ่มขึ้นทันที)
- contemporary (adj.): (ร่วมสมัย, ทันสมัย)
- stylish (adj.): (เก๋, เท่, หลุย, กันสมัย)
- come into one's own (idm.): (ให้เห็นค่า, เห็นความสามารถ, แสดงให้เห็นตัวตน)
- hot (adj.): (ซึ่งได้รับความนิยม)
- merchandise (n.): (สินค้า)
- decade (n.): (ทศวรรษ)
- variant (adj.): (ที่มีรูปแบบแตกต่างกันออกไป)
- tight (adj.): (คับ, แน่น)
- establish (v.): (ก่อตั้ง)

Name : _____ Class: _____ No: _____

Directions : Read the passage and then answer the questions.

1. Why did American soldiers begin wearing lightweight undershirts?

Answer: _____

2. Why were T-shirts adopted by the U.S. Navy and Army?

Answer: _____

3. What shocked Americans watching movies in the 1950s?

Answer: _____

4. Who helped make the T-shirt a symbol of rebellion?

Answer: _____

5. Why did many variations of the T-shirt appear in the 1960s?

Answer: _____

6. When did T-shirts become even more popular as a kind of merchandise?

Answer: _____



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