

Simple But Useful

BUTTONS

Over 3,000 years ago, people used belts and pins to fasten their clothing, not buttons. Buttons were used just to decorate clothing. In Europe, from the 1200s through the 1600s, buttons were status symbols for the rich. They were made from jewels and precious metals like gold and silver.
Kings put as many buttons as possible on their clothing to impress people and to show that they were richer, more important and more powerful than other kings. In the 1700s, it became more common to use buttons to fasten1 coats, shirts and even shoes. In the 1800s, factories began
producing buttons by the millions. They were no longer a status symbol. Today, the only time we think of buttons is when we lose one from our favorite shirt!

Bonus Factoids

*** King Louis the XIV (1638-1715) of France spent over $5,000,000 on buttons while he was king.**
*** In the 16th and 17th centuries, buttons were so valuable that it was dangerous to steal them.**
You could be sent to prison or even be put to death2 for stealing buttons!
*** During the American Civil War (1861-1865), two-piece metal buttons were taken apart and used by spies to carry secret messages.**

A) Fill in the chart .

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Date?	What happened?
1-In 1700s	
2-In 1800s	
3- 1861-1865	

B) Facts bout buttons .

Complete the sentences.

In the past, …

1. buttons were used to----------

2. buttons were symbols of ----------

3. buttons were made ----------

LIVEWORKSHEETS