

## You're Never Fully Dressed Without A....TOGA

by Zee Ann Poerio



During National Latin Teacher Recruitment Week my class performed a little skit to promote classics. Parents volunteered to make the togas. I asked if anyone had scrap fabric that could be used and asked for volunteers to sew. A few togas were donated that were once used as Halloween costumes. My motto is "just ask." You never know what people have and are willing to share for the good of the "EMPIRE"! We made basic tunics using the websites listed below. I used muslin or cotton for most of the togas. They were folded across the top and stitched down the sides leaving arm holes and a slit was cut across the top fold for the head. They were tied at the

waist with cording or rope. For a quick tunic, we folded a cloth, cut a small (slit) opening for the head in the center of the fold and just tied it at the waist. (It was like a rectangular poncho and required NO sewing.) For some, I also used safety pins to secure the sides and others were made with fabric glue. Most of them were sewn, but using the different methods allowed for more people to be able to help and get the job done in a short period of time.



The second year we did the skit, I had volunteers "finish" the togas that weren't permanently sewn, so every year we can add more details and finishing touches since we don't have to remake the garments. We had a few boys dressed in tunics with togas and a few girls dressed in pallas and stolas for our production. You can use large rectangular pieces of fabric for the draped pieces and you can secure them with pins. A costume jewelry pin will make a beautiful fibula or toga pin, but a safety pin can also be used.

### **TOGA websites:**

[http://members.ozemail.com.au/~chrisandpeter/radical\\_romans/costume.htm](http://members.ozemail.com.au/~chrisandpeter/radical_romans/costume.htm)

Roman costume guide

<http://www.larp.com/legioxx/tunic.html>

Tunic

<http://www.dl.ket.org/latin1/things/romanlife/howto.htm>

How to make a tunic

<http://www.villaivlilla.com/toga.htm>

Toga information

[http://www.geocities.com/chrissy\\_lynn\\_2000/tunic.html](http://www.geocities.com/chrissy_lynn_2000/tunic.html)

Make a tunic

<http://www.vroma.org/~bmcmanus/clothing.html>

Roman Clothing

<http://www.roman-empire.net/society/soc-dress.html>

Roman Dress