

# Fashion Design for CAYMAN'S Young Fashion Designers



CREATIVITY : HERITAGE : EDUCATION

# DRESS FOR CULTURE DAY



# CAYMAN FASHION

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# DRESS FOR CULTURE DAY

## Friday 11 March 2022

### A Dress Down Fundraiser

ADULTS \$5 | STUDENTS \$3



REGISTER YOURSELF, YOUR SCHOOL OR BUSINESS TODAY.  
VISIT [www.artscayman.org](http://www.artscayman.org) FOR MORE INFORMATION

# TRADITIONAL DRESS WEAR MADE NEW



A Quadrille dress is a bespoke dress worn by women in Caribbean countries. The quadrille dress is the folk costume of Jamaica, Dominica and Haiti. It is known by a different name in each country. The dress is worn during the quadrille dance.

In Haiti, the quadrille dress is called a karabela dress. Traditional male attire for dances, weddings, and other formal wear is the linen shirt jacket. In Saint Lucia, the name of the dress is spelled Kwadril dress. In Jamaica, the quadrille dress is made of cotton. It's called a bandana skirt.

The quadrille skirt is worn with a ruffled sleeve blouse and a matching head tie. The traditional dress is made out of red and white cotton plaid, maroon and white plaid, or madras. The plaid material is called bandana fabric. During the quadrille, women typically wear this skirt with a ruffled blouse with sleeves and a head tie. The male dancers wear shirts and white pants made from the same material as the quadrille dress. Some versions of this folk costume include a headscarf that resembles a turban.

The folk headdresses in Jamaica are either bandanas or handmade straw hats. The hats were traditionally woven from the dried leaves of the Silver Palm top. A bandana is a piece of cloth wrapped around the head. It is meant to keep the hair in place and to protect the head from sunstrokes. But this headgear is not really authentic for Jamaica. Similar headpieces were imported from India in the 18th century though Indian bandanas were made from silk. In Jamaica, people chose cotton and calico to make bandanas.

# TRADITIONAL DRESS FABRIC MADE NEW

## HISTORY OF MADRAS FABRIC

Madras fabric originated in a part of India named 'Madras' and later became popular in England, Ireland and Scotland. For many enslaved Africans, especially in the Caribbean and some parts of southern America, the Madras was also an important piece of clothing.

Women in the Caribbean were forced to cover their hair to prove they are lesser than the white women and the Madras fabric became the popular option for many. Many slave traders also preferred that their slaves wore the light cloth which would not make them sweat out of heat when working in the fields. Today, the Madras is the most worn traditional fabric in the Caribbean during festive seasons and celebrations of their history.

(Source: [face2faceafrica.com](http://face2faceafrica.com))

## MADRAS COTTON PLAID FABRIC

Cotton fabric with a printed woven design crisscrossing horizontal and vertical lines frequently favoured as the fabric used to sew quadrille dress wear today. Plaids date back to the 1500s and now come in many patterns.



FABRIC: Madras Fabric – preppy plaid AT-19-44

WIDTH: 44-45 inches approx.

WEIGHT: Light to Medium weight

COLOR SCHEME: Red, white and black plaids combination

DRAPING & THICKNESS: Fabric drapes fairly well due to its medium-weight and being cotton it crushes and gets back in shape equally. Steam press ideal though not mandatory. It allows little light to pass through when held up against a bulb/natural light.

FINISH & FEEL: Regular medium cotton poplin feel to the hand

(Source: [fabriconlinestore.com](http://fabriconlinestore.com))

# NEW PLAID DESIGNS



# DESIGN YOUR OWN NATIONAL DRESS/COSTUME

In designing the Cayman Islands National Dress, consideration should be given to a fusion of both the past and the present, reflecting the history, heritage, and cultural expression of the people of the Cayman Islands. Further consideration should be given to the people's way of life and sense of style, as well as their desires and aspirations for the future. The dress may also symbolise the importance of our traditions of peace, harmony and goodwill, our national symbols, our natural resources, the faith and creativity of our people, and their courage and resilience in the face of natural disasters.



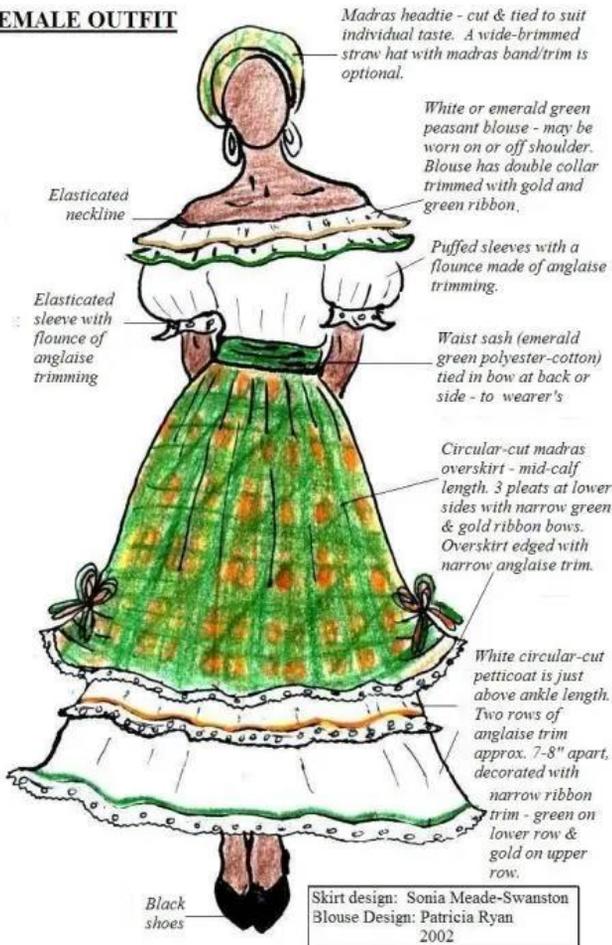
Photo: Wil Bignal, Design by Reba Dilbert

## HOW TO DESIGN YOUR OWN NATIONAL DRESS/COSTUME

- 👉 Read the article "How to Use A Croquis".
- 👉 Follow all the steps.
- 👉 Enjoy your design!

# ADD THE FINISHING TOUCHES

## FEMALE OUTFIT



## ADD THE FINISHING TOUCHES TO YOUR DESIGN

- After creating your design using a croquis, you may add additional details for the person who will be sewing your garment.
- Use a pen or type the words so that your directions to the seamstress or the tailor are very clear to read. See samples on this page.

## MALE OUTFIT



Source: [DiscoverMNI.com](http://DiscoverMNI.com)

# DESIGN YOUR OWN C.I. T-SHIRT



## DIRECTIONS:

- ✚ Print out the tee shirt sketch and draw the shape on a piece of unlined paper.
- ✚ Use a pencil and draw your Cayman Islands design on the tee shirt.
- ✚ Use coloured pencils to shade in the colours you choose.
- ✚ Print your name at the bottom of the page in the right-hand corner. Write the date under your name.
- ✚ Share your design with your family and friends.
- ✚ Email a copy to 'Auntie V' at [vfoster@artscayman.org](mailto:vfoster@artscayman.org) if you want to share your design on the Cayman National Cultural Foundation's website.

# USING A CROQUIS

## WHAT IS CROQUIS FASHION DESIGN?

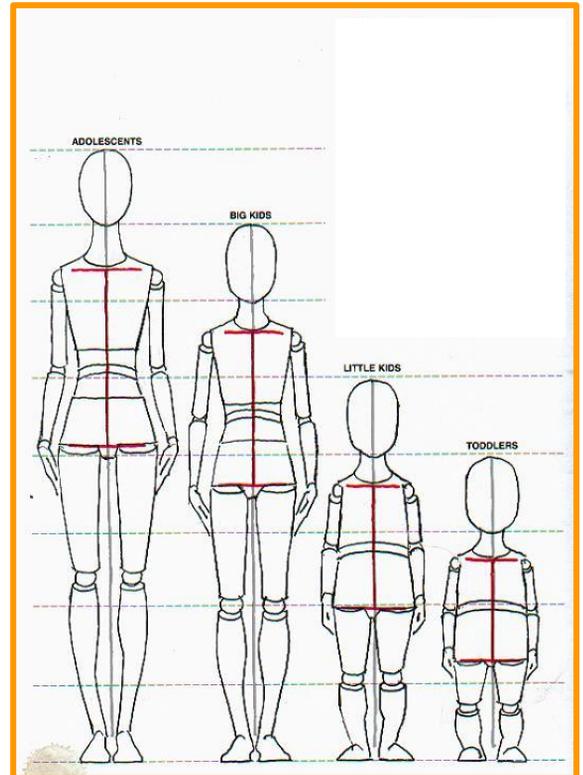
In fashion, a croquis is a quick sketch of an ensemble...The fashion model figure is exaggerated with elongated legs, arms, and neck. The average human body is about seven heads tall, but croquis often span from eight to eleven heads tall.

## WHY IS CROQUIS IMPORTANT?

Croquis drawing helps to make the body's balance, joints, and limbs all look more natural. It also improves your drawing observation skills.

## DIRECTIONS:

- ✦ Download a copy of the croquis and select the figure that matches the age group you're designing for. Use a pencil to trace it on a sheet of unlined paper. Draw your design directly over the croquis.
- ✦ Sketch in face and hair if you wish or leave the sketch as it is to draw more attention to the fashion attire.
- ✦ Add more details if you wish, e.g., shoes, head covering, jewelry. You may add tiny samples of the fabric you've selected.
- ✦ Erase the croquis pencil lines that you don't want to show through your design. Colour and shade your sketch with coloured pencils.
- ✦ Write your name or your initials and the date on the bottom right-hand side of the page.
- ✦ Share your CREATION with family and friends. Email to [vfoster@artscayman.org](mailto:vfoster@artscayman.org) if you want to share it with 'Auntie V' at CNCF.;



### Sources:

- ✦ [Pret-a-croquis.blogspot.com](http://Pret-a-croquis.blogspot.com)
- ✦ [Samanthasbell.com](http://Samanthasbell.com)

# CAYMAN'S COSTUME DESIGNER - REBA DILBERT



Photo: Cayman Compass

*"I tell a story with my work. It is not enough to just create beautiful costumes. Art in any form should make you think, make you wonder and make you feel something. Art should be an experience."* - Reba Dilbert, Caymanian International Fashion and Costume Designer and Maker

Reba Dilbert, a self-taught Caymanian fashion and costume designer, has been a major part of the National Carnival Batabano and the Pirates Week Festival for more than 30 years. Her costumes have graced stages at competitions like Ms. Universe. Her creations have travelled to Russia, Turkey, Malta, Texas, and California.

On 15 April 2021 in Italy, Reba received three silver awards in the A' Design Award Competition, the world's most influential design award. The Cayman Islands is the only Caribbean country that has ever been nominated for such a competition. In 2011, Reba received the Queen's Certificate and Badge of Honour. She is also the recipient of CNCF's Gold Heritage Cross 2016.



Photo: [adesignaward.com](https://adesignaward.com)

# CAYMAN'S COSTUME DESIGNER - REBA DILBERT



**GEM OF THE WORLD** was inspired by the white sands of Cayman's beaches.



**WESTERN FASHIONISTA REBEL** celebrated the vibrance of the Caribbean woman.



**WOMAN IN POWER** paid homage to women's ability to stay strong, despite breast cancer and domestic abuse.

# CAYMAN'S JUNIOR BATABANO

## BATABANO

In the Cayman Islands, Batabano, one of the youngest Carnival celebrations in the Caribbean, is a popular May event that celebrates African history in the Caribbean, as well as the success of the present and future Cayman Islanders. The word "Batabano" is a nod to the tracks that local sea turtles leave in the sand when they move from their nests to the beach, a term some speculate was chosen to represent the growth of the Cayman Islands over generations.

## JUNIOR BATABANO'

Introduced in 2002, Junior Batabano is Cayman Carnival's parade for the youth of the Cayman Islands to enjoy 'playing mas' in a family-friendly environment and to experience the spirit of carnival in their own parade.



Photo: [Facebook.com/JuniorBatabano](https://www.facebook.com/JuniorBatabano)

# CAYMAN'S JUNIOR BATABANO CONT'D

Designs by Reba Dilbert



Reba Dilbert hopes to see more costume making done in the Cayman Islands. As a major supporter and participant in the National Carnival and Junior Batabano, she wants to encourage children and adults to design and make costumes.

# CAYMAN'S JUNIOR BATABANO CONT'D

Source: [trinijunglejuice.com](http://trinijunglejuice.com)



sir turtle playing mas

## THE TURTLE CYCLE

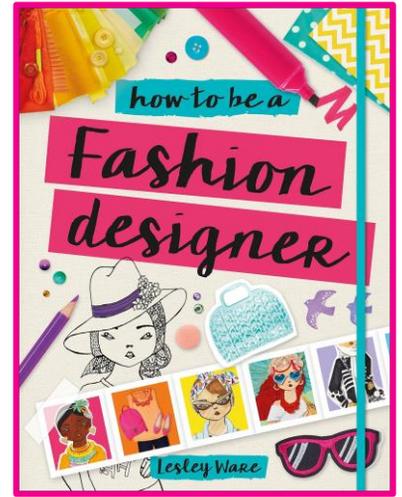
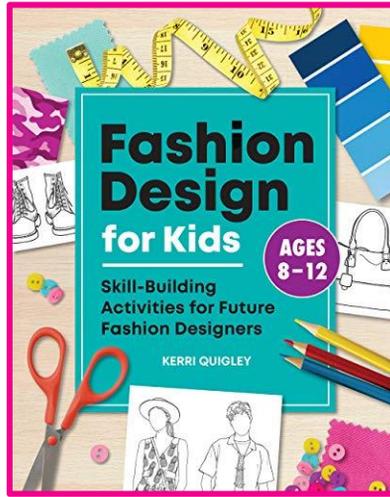
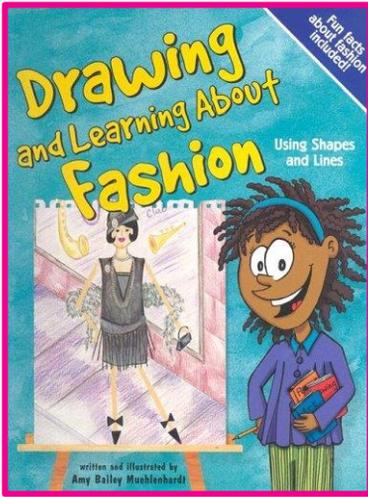


a nest of eggs

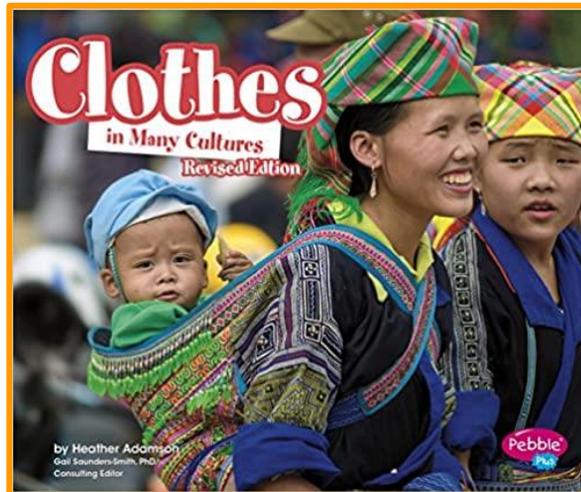
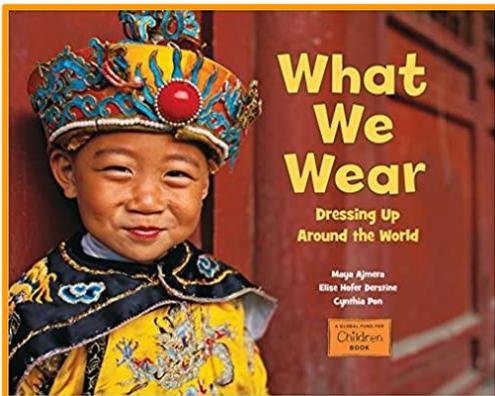
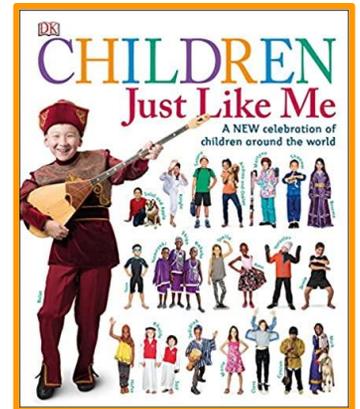
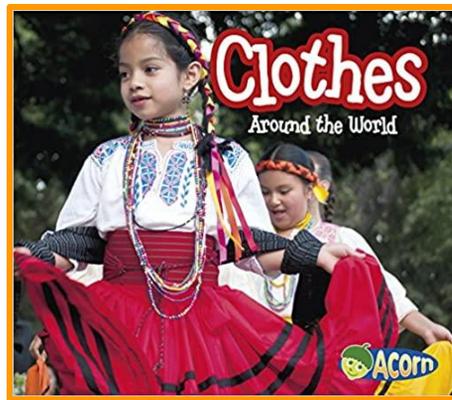
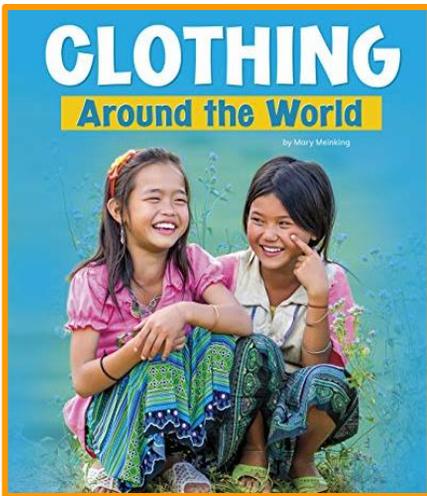
Richard  
2013

Junior Batabano costumes designed by Richard Bartholomew of Trinidad, along with Shane James.

# FASHION DESIGN BOOKS TO READ



# BOOKS ABOUT CLOTHING AROUND THE WORLD

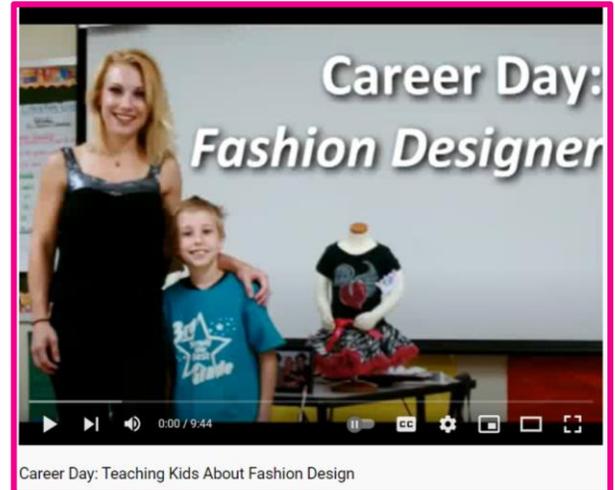


# FASHION DESIGN LINKS TO WATCH/READ...



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5A4sFbHldfQ>

↳ [How to Become a Fashion Designer at a Young Age](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5A4sFbHldfQ)



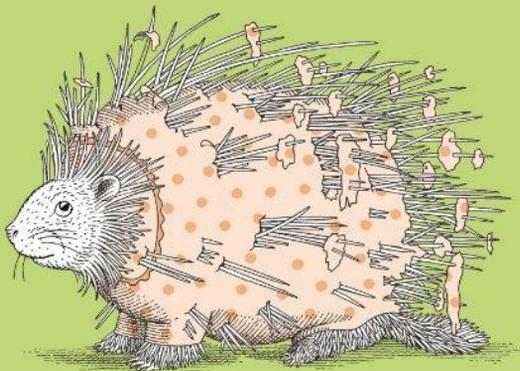
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9lu3b2ReYw>

## ...AND HAVE A GOOD LAUGH

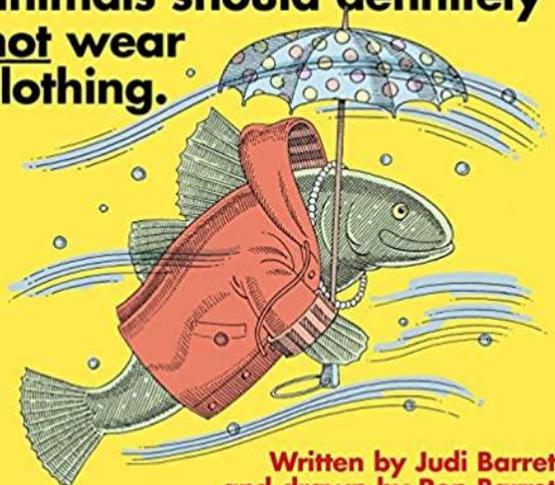
**Animals should definitely not wear clothing.**

**Written by Judi Barrett  
and drawn by Ron Barrett**

Creators of the bestselling *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*



**Lots more  
animals should definitely  
not wear  
clothing.**



**Written by Judi Barrett  
and drawn by Ron Barrett**

Creators of the bestselling *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*