

DESIGN A DRESS LIKE ELIZABETH KECKLEY

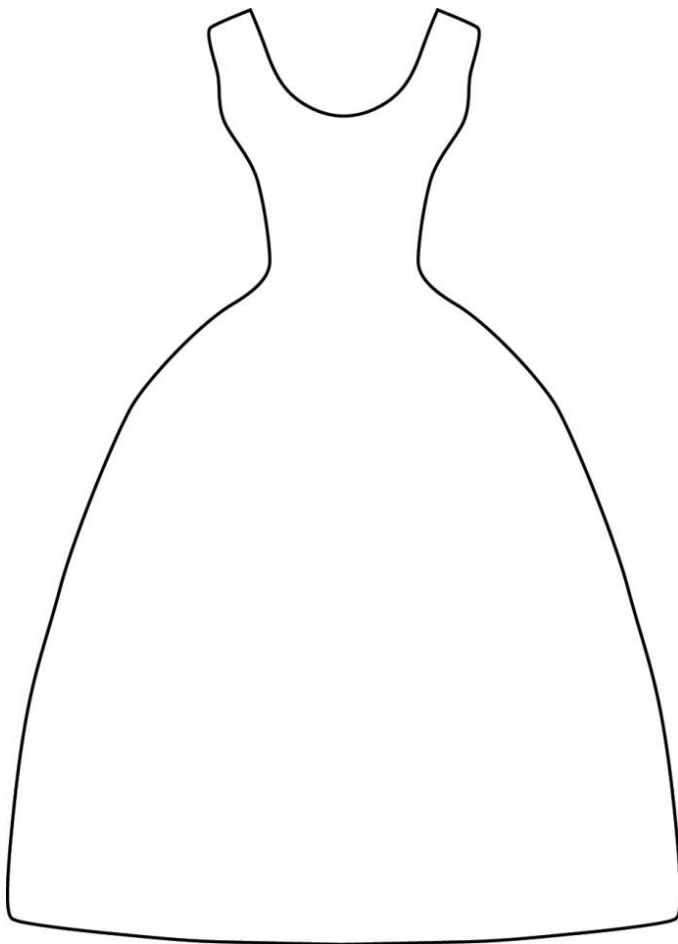
Many of the dresses worn by First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln during her time in the White House were designed by **Elizabeth Keckley**, a formerly enslaved woman featured in the Resource Packet: Slavery, Freedom, and the White House.

During the Lincoln administration, Mrs. Keckley worked as a free and independent dressmaker for the wives of prominent politicians in Washington, D.C. In the 1860s, women's clothing was designed to emphasize a small waist. Skirts were full and round at the bottom.

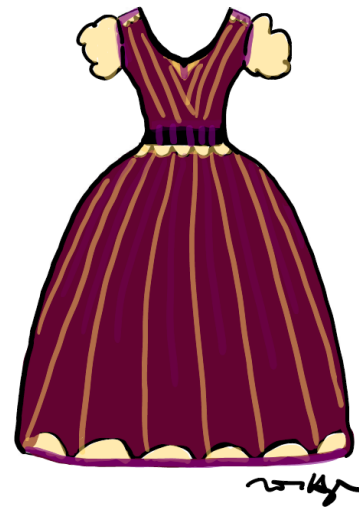
Now, imagine you are Elizabeth Keckley and Mrs. Lincoln asked for a new dress. What would you design for the first lady?



Mary Todd Lincoln (1863) from Bradley-Handley Collection/Library of Congress



Example Dress



Inspired by Lincoln White House china design

