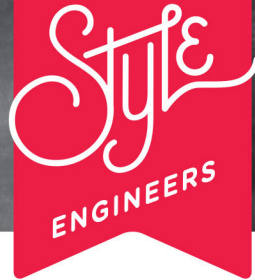


SPECTACULAR  
**Skirts**  
At a Glance



*Fashion*  
through science

## Flared Skirt Mood Board



# Flared Skirt Answer Key

There are three options for this skirt design, each progressively more flared.

## Student Questions

### Why is it not a fitted tube?

**YOUR Answer:** Using the same amount of fabric at the waistline as the bottom does not allow for the skirt's flared hem. It will either result in equal width all the way down the length of the skirt, making it too tight at the bottom or it will create excess fabric at the waistline. Think about how to vary the amount of fabric from the waist to the hem.

### Q: Why is it not a trapezoid?

**A:** All of the extra fabric will be collected at one point of the skirt. The flare in a circle skirt is continuous around the design. Think about how to spread out the extra fabric.

### Q: Should it be one or two pieces?

**A:** The circle skirt can be made with one or two pieces. . Various arcs or circles like those shown here can be joined to make one skirt. Think about how the amount of flare would change as more is added to the circle.

### Q: Why must the bottom edge be curved?

**A:** This is to allow for an even bottom seam. Illustrate this phenomenon by wrapping a piece of rectangular paper into a cone, and then trimming it evenly. Once a level base is achieved, flatten to show its 2D shape.

## Flared Skirt Patterns



Smaller amount of flare than the other variations.



Flared / Circle skirt pattern with a little more flare.



This pattern has the most flare of the variations.

## Gathered Skirt Mood Board

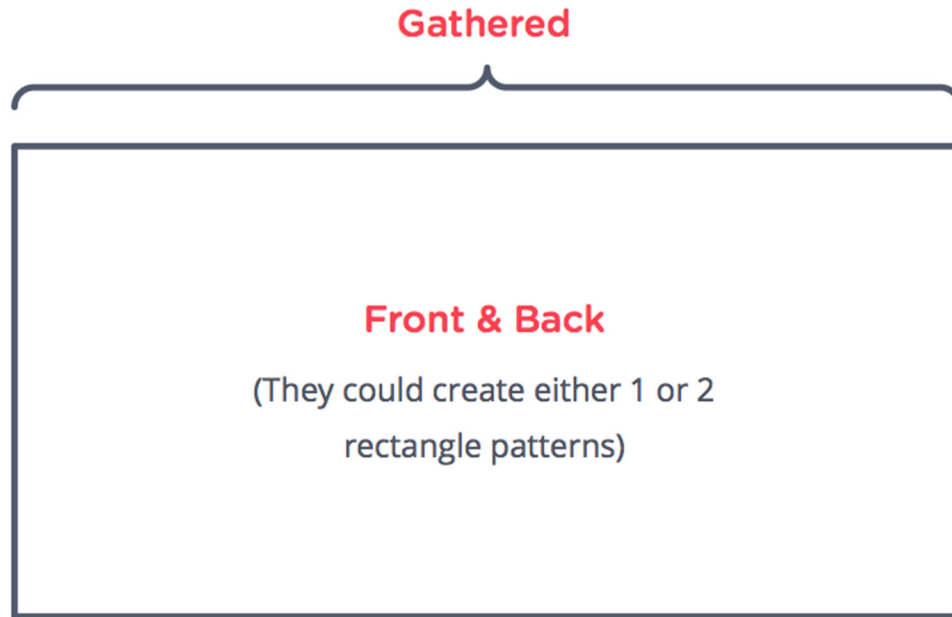


Gathered  
Skirt



## Gathered Skirt Answer Key

The students should arrive at a rectangular shape pattern. The width may vary, the more fabric, the more gathers.



**Q: Why will it not be the same design as the circle skirt? It seems like a similar silhouette.**

**A:** The skirt is gathered together at the top and smooth at the bottom, rather than having a smooth waistline and wavy bottom. These gathers are what differentiate the two skirt designs. Think about what flat shapes are needed to create these two shapes.

**Q: Is this skirt gathered and flared?**

**A:** Many skirts use a combination of the two techniques. In a basic gathered skirt pattern, however, only gathering is used. Think about how the bottom edge of the pattern is affected by these two options.

**Q: Why is it not a trapezoid?**

**A:** While this shape does have the flat waistline and bottom for the gathered skirt, the additional fabric on either edge will create an uneven 3D hemline. All of the extra fabric will be collected at one point of the skirt. Think about how to keep the level waistline and hem without the extra fabric.

**Q: Should it be one or two pieces?**

**A:** The gathered skirt can be made with one or two pieces. Because it is a rectangular shape, the number of panels will not affect the shape. Think about the benefits of each option.



## Fitted Skirt with Darts Mood Board



## Fitted Skirt with Darts Answer Key

The solution is to fold in excess fabric, making “darts” at the waist. The curves at the side of the body could also be fitted with darts if they are making a one-piece skirt.

**Q: Will the waist require the same amount of fabric as the hips?**

**A:** No. This skirt is fitted in both places without any gathers, so the waist must be made smaller than the hips. Think about where this extra fabric must go.

**Q: When in the design should darts be added?**

**A:** It is important to fold in the darts after putting the tissue on the form. It would be hard to know exactly where to put the darts for a smooth waistline without having the form underneath.

**Q: What is the purpose of the darts?**

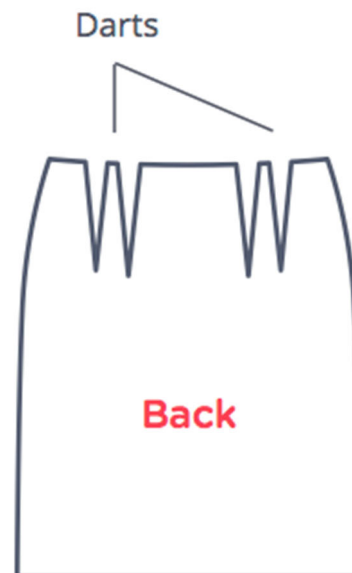
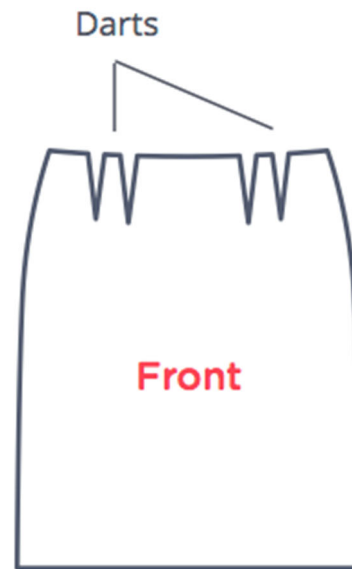
**A:** The fitted skirt with darts is different from other skirts because the waist is smaller than the hips without any gathers or flares. Think about how this is achieved.

**Q: How can both the bottom and the waistline be fitted without having gathers?**

**A:** The bottom must be wider than the waistline. Rather than have an equal amount of fabric at both ends and altering the width as with the gathered skirt, think about how to have more fabric at the bottom than at the top.

**Q: Should it be one or two pieces?**

**A:** The fitted skirt with darts must be made using two pieces, a front and a back.



## Peg Skirt Mood Board

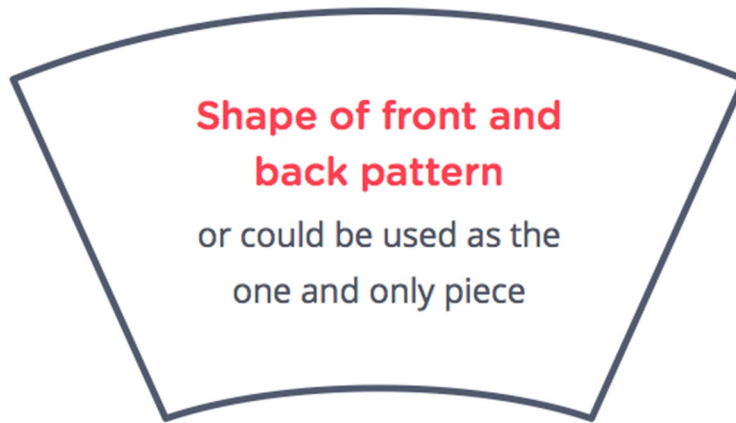


## Peg Skirt Answer Key

The simplest peg skirt is an upside-down version of the flared skirt. Again, they can make a front and a back or they can use one piece to form the whole skirt.

### Gathers or tucks on top

to create the large amount of volume found on the top part of the peg skirt.



### Q: Will the bottom require the same amount of fabric as the waistline and hips?

**A:** No. In this skirt design, the bottom is more fitted than the hip area. The waist is fitted however, and smaller than the hip. Think about how to achieve these relationships.

### Q: Why does it not require darts or gathering?

**A:** Darts are sewn flat, and would not show the fabric folds we see at the waist. Gathering is one possibility, but it would not provide the smooth waistline pictured in the examples. Think about another kind of fabric manipulation that could achieve the correct look.

### Q: Why is it not an upside down trapezoid?

**A:** Think back to the flared skirt. In the same way, all of the extra fabric will be collected at one point of the skirt instead of an even waistline. Curved seam lines allow for a level bottom edge. Think about how to manipulate the flare skirt pattern to fit the peg skirt.

### Q: Should it be one or two pieces?

**A:** The peg skirt can be made with one or two pieces. Two pieces will create a symmetrical waistline between front and back. One piece will create an arched waistline, with the higher part of the arc directly opposite the seam line.



## Challenge Question

Match each of the following tops with the kind of draping they illustrate, applying the techniques learned in the skirt activity.

