

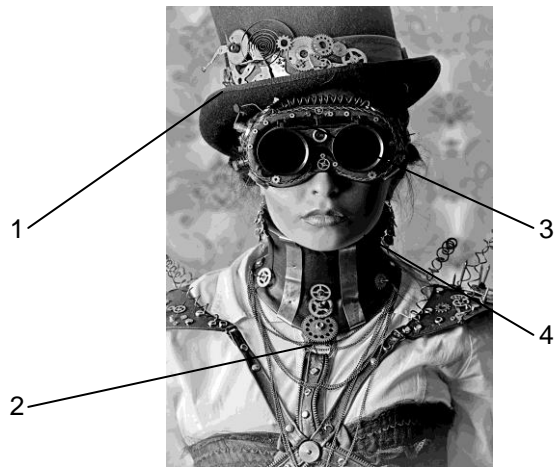
Culture Unit 2

Steampunk

1 Label the photo with the words in the box.

cogs collar goggles top hat

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____



2 Read the article and match the bold words with definitions 1–9.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 made by hand _____ | 5 for pleasure _____ |
| 2 the year 2000 _____ | 6 the skill of making something of good quality with your hands _____ |
| 3 a statement or action that shows that you do not like something _____ | 7 produce a good effect for _____ |
| 4 small devices that you can save lots of digital information on _____ | 8 a set of ideas and beliefs _____ |
| | 9 a new fashion or movement _____ |

Steampunk

A young man with long hair and a big moustache takes a wooden case with shiny cogs on it from the pocket of his smart brown suit. In his black top hat, black leather collar and metal goggles, he looks like someone from 1850s Britain. It's the present day, however, and the wooden case contains an up-to-date smartphone. He's a steampunk, part of a **trend** that's been growing since **the millennium**, which appears in films, video games and also fashion.

Steampunk combines new technology with traditional style and values. Its love of 19th-century mechanical technology is a colourful **protest** against the rise of mass-produced modern technology. Computer game controllers, **data sticks** and phone cases **crafted** from materials like brass, copper, wood and glass can all now be bought. However, many steampunks prefer to make their own 'mods' – things they've made to look old-fashioned by changing their appearance.

Is steampunk just an unconventional fashion that will soon become part of mainstream culture, or is there a more serious **ideology** behind it? While some steampunks simply dress up as 19th-century explorers, soldiers and pirates **for the fun of it**, for many others the trend has a deeper meaning. Steampunk represents a belief in the value of **craftsmanship** over cheaply-made goods which are bought and then soon thrown away. Steampunks prefer to make their own things, recycle things or buy goods that **benefit** the individuals who made them rather than big wealthy companies. Above all, steampunks look for ways to make everyday life less conventional and more beautiful, mixing the best of old-fashioned values with the best of modern technology.

3 Are statements 1–6 true (T) or false (F)? Read the article again and check your answers.

- 1 Steampunk is becoming less popular now. ___
- 2 Steampunks don't like modern technology. ___
- 3 You can buy things for your smartphone or computer that look as though they were made 150 years ago. ___
- 4 Steampunk 'mods' are people. ___
- 5 Steampunks often wear clothes in the style of certain 19th-century jobs. ___
- 6 Most steampunks think it's better to own well-made things that will last a long time. ___

4 What's your opinion of steampunk? What do you like and / or dislike about it? Consider the clothes, the objects and the ideology. Write in your notebook.