

Clothing Unit Activity Idea: SOCK MOCCASINS

Age Level: Grades 1–4

Time Required: one class period

Lesson Overview

Students will learn about Native American clothing and make simulated moccasins to reinforce their knowledge.

Objectives

Students will

- learn about Native American clothing;
- examine decorative motifs and select one to decorate their moccasins;
- draw the designs on their moccasins.

Subjects/Skills

- social studies, art
- visual/spatial skills

Materials

- 1 pair of white socks per student
- 1 pair of shoelaces per student (at least 20 inches long)
- scissors
- felt-tip markers
- paper (for stuffing socks)
- pictures of moccasins from books

Background

The Indians in the southeastern United States usually only wore moccasins in cold weather or when traveling. The moccasins were made of a piece of deer-skin, seamed at the heel and top of the foot. Historic examples from tribes throughout the U.S. show that they were decorated with quillwork (embroidery using dyed porcupine quills) or beadwork in geometric designs and might have small metal cones attached to make a tinkling sound.

Preparation

Using the “Necessities of Life: Clothing” hand-out, read or summarize the information for the students. Make copies of page 3 (design motifs) for the students to use (enlarge if necessary). If possible, show the students pictures of moccasins from various books and examine different design motifs from various tribes.

Procedure

Follow the directions on page 2.

Closure/Assessment

Let students tell why they chose the designs they did. Discuss other types of Native American clothing and how it was decorated.

Extension

This activity can be extended to allow the students to fashion their own pots from clay and decorate them with the illustrated motifs on page 3.

Credits

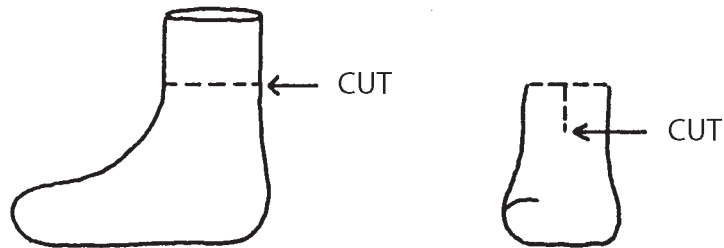
This activity was adapted from *The Native People of the Northeast Woodlands* by Judith A. Brundin for the *Discovery Handbook*, Museum of Prehistory and History, Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, Arkansas. Visit the Arkansas Archeological Survey website for more information about Arkansas Indians and archeology.



Sock Moccasins Activity Sheet Directions

1. CUT

- the top of the socks to about 3 inches above the ankle;
- down the front of the sock to the top of the foot.



2. PUT ON the socks.

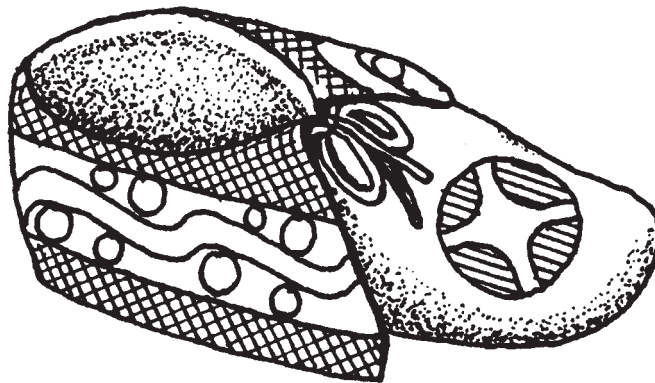
3. TIE the shoe laces around the ankle.

4. FOLD the top of the sock down over the laces to form the moccasin flaps.



5. REMOVE the sock moccasins and STUFF with paper.

6. DECORATE the sock moccasins by drawing on them with felt-tip markers. IMITATE some of the design motifs on the next page or from examples of historic moccasins in books.



Sock Mocassin Design Motifs

The Native American designs shown here were found on pottery in Yell County, Arkansas, that dates to about A.D. 1300–1600. We don't know for sure if these designs were also used to decorate clothing, but they might have been. Very little clothing survives

from prehistoric times, so we don't have much definite evidence about how it was decorated.

Similar designs were also used to decorate other types of artifacts, such as shells and baskets, and even cave walls.

