

	Old Time Crafts and Cooks	
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Felt Moccasin

Supplies Needed:

- A piece of newspaper or paper (large) for a template
- Marker
- Ruler or tape measure
- Fabric (like felt)
- Scissors
- A strong thread
- Sewing needle
- Sewing or safety pins
- (optional) Beads and embroidery floss
- (optional) Two piece of yarn

History:

For early settler and Indigenous children, homemade toys and clothing would teach children skills they would need later in life. They would practice these skills, like sewing and needlework, on their toys to be able to mend or even create their own clothes. Both boys and girls needed to know how to mend a piece of clothing! For this craft, we'll look at an Indigenous clothing item called moccasins. It was very important to have moccasins to protect your feet from the cold Canadian climate, and the soft soles would be handy to have while wearing snowshoes or stepping into a canoe. A pair of moccasins could be decorative, used in ceremonies, or used as everyday footwear depending on how it was designed. Moccasins could also be traded between First Nations as presents and a way to share their culture and special designs with other groups.

How To:

For this craft you will need a foot to measure out a template, and have all the materials listed above ready to be used.

1. Place your foot on a large piece of paper or newspaper, and use the marker to trace an outline of your foot. It doesn't matter which foot you use! Draw a straight line about 3cm from the back of your heel horizontally across the page.

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2. Measure the instep of your foot: with your foot flat on the floor, use a tape measure to measure up around the largest part of the arch of your foot, and continue all the way back to the ground. Only measure the top of your foot! This is your instep measurement. Divide this number in half.
3. Back on your foot template, find your instep. Use your halved number to measure out from the left of your foot, and mark it as "1". Measure out on the right of your foot as well and mark it as "2". Make a final mark about 3cm from the top of your toes as "3". Starting from "1", trace up around the top of your foot until you reach "3". This will eventually fold up as the top of your moccasin. Repeat with "2".
4. From "1", make a diagonal line outwards away from your foot. This will become the flaps around your ankle, so only draw it about 10cm long. Then trace it backwards all the way to the straight line from Step #1. Repeat with mark "2".
5. Cut out your template. Cut a small triangle out at the very top of your template at mark "3". This will allow the material to fold nicely.
6. Trace your template on two pieces of fabric and cut them out.
7. If you would like to decorate the flaps, you can embroider it with decorative thread, sew beads into them, or use whatever material you have (glitter glue, felt markers) to make your designs!
8. Fold the material in half with your designed flaps facing outwards. Use a running stitch to sew from your toes to the bottom of the flap, overlapping the stitches at the ends.
9. Turn your moccasin inside out and try it on. Use safety pins or sewing pins to fit the heel together. Take off the shoe and sew the heel seam, leaving 2cm from the bottom open.
10. Cut out a small square at the base of the heel seam. Flatten the bottom of the moccasin and sew the heel closed.
11. Fold down the flaps around the top of the moccasin. You can use extra material or a thick piece of yarn to create a tie underneath the flap, securing your moccasins to your feet.
12. Enjoy your new shoes!

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