

Clothing From Animals

By: Eisley Leonard and Krishna Patel

Introduction

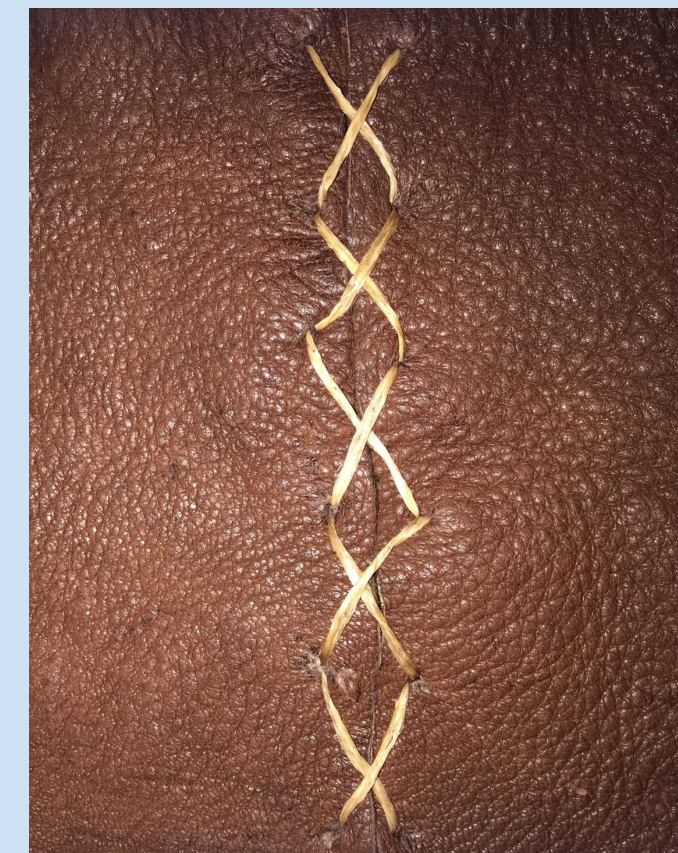
Have you ever wondered how people in precontact times made clothes? We wanted to learn how people in precontact times made and sewed clothing using bone tools. We wanted to learn how people in the past made clothing from start to finish so we started researching everything from killing the animal to making it into clothing. During our research we got interested in the bone tools and sinew they used so we decided to try sewing 2 pieces of leather together using a bone tool and fake sinew. We learned how to make a bone tool and how to make holes and sew leather.

Sewing Leather

- Native People used shaved/sharpened bone to make a "needle."
- In warmer, more tropical climates they would use thinned Agave stalks.
- Native People would use heavy duty sharpened twit as a precontact "Needle."

Decorations

- Native people used feathers, animal fur (such as ermine or rabbit), porcupine quills, shell beads, flowers, dyed thin corn husks and, after the Europeans arrived, they used glass beads to decorate their clothes.
- Crimson (rich deep red color) (Dying)
- Ocher (varying from light brown to brown or red) (Dying)



Methods and Materials

Methods And Steps For Prepping Skin

1. Kill animal
2. Skin animal
3. Soak hide in salted water to dehydrate the skin
4. Scrape meat and tissue
5. Degrease to get grease out of the fur (process takes about a week)
6. Let fur dry completely
7. Braining the skin
8. Bend skin to make it more flexible
9. Brush the fur to soften the fur
10. Smoking the skin

Materials

- A burnt stick to trace an outline
- A stone "knife" to cut the skin
- Sharp bone awls to make holes
- Wooden pegs to keep sections of fur attached temporarily until sewn

Why Tan The Hide?

- Prevents rotting
- Stabilizes structure
- Improves resistance to temperature
- First do a salt bath to prevent bacterial growth and to dry out hide slightly



What Did Different People Wear?

- Men
 - Most men wore breechcloth (a piece of material which they tucked into a belt that would cover the front and back. In warm climates this was all men would wear.
 - In cooler climates men wore leggings to cover their legs and keep them warm.
 - Lots of men went shirtless throughout most of the year, only wearing cloaks when it got very cold.
 - The Plains Indian men were known for their elaborate and decorated war shirts.
 - Native Americans wore some kind of footwear. This was usually a shoe made of soft leather called a moccasin. In the cold northern areas like Alaska, they wore a thick boot called a mukluk.
- Women
 - Native American women mostly wore skirts and leggings. Often they wore shirts or tunics as well. In some tribes, like Cherokee and the Apache, the women wore longer buckskin dresses.
 - Native Americans wore some kind of footwear. This was usually a shoe made of soft leather called a moccasin. In the cold northern areas like Alaska, they wore a thick boot called a mukluk.

Other Extra Facts

Animal body parts being used for different things

- Bladder = water bottle
- Stomach = buckets, cups, dishes, cooking pots
- Intestine = "thread"
- Wood/bone = jewelry
- Muscles = sinew, meat
- Horns = cups, spoons
- Tail = decorations, fly brush
- Fat = soap, cooking oil
- Bones = knives, arrowheads, shovels, scrapers, winter sleds
- Brain = hide preparations
- Skull = religious ceremonies
- Tongue = best part of the meat, hairbrush
- Dung = fuel for fire
- Hooves = rattles

Conclusion

After all our research we found out a lot of interesting things about our topic. We were able to sew with leather and make our own bone tools, too! Overall, our topic was really fun to study. This was a very interesting topic to learn about and now we've learned how the people in the precontact times made their clothing.

Sources

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