

LEVELED BOOK • L

Shoes Around the World

Written by Dori Butler

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Introduction

I love shoes—all kinds of shoes.
My grandma loves to travel. Last
year, she took a trip around the
world. She sent my brother postcards
from all the places she visited.

She sent me shoes!

Babouches

First, Grandma sent me some babouches (bah-BOO-shes) from Morocco. They are soft and comfortable like slippers. But you can wear them outdoors. Grandma says they are made of camel hair. They are easy to slip on and off.





Klompen

Next, Grandma sent me some klompen (KLOM-pen) from Holland. They make a clip-clop sound when I walk. That's because klompen are made of wood.

People used to wear them as work shoes on farms and in factories and mines. Today, people wear klompen because they are comfortable and they look nice.





Geta

In geta (GEH-tah) sandals, I can be much taller!

Grandma sent these tall wooden geta from Japan. Both men and women used to wear these sandals with their beautiful silk kimonos. The high wooden platforms kept their kimonos out of the dust and mud.

People started wearing wooden geta over 2,000 years ago. Today, Grandma says this traditional shoe is usually worn only for special occasions and official ceremonies.

To wear them, I had to practice how to walk in a new way. But after a few tries, I could do it! I just imagined I was wearing a long silk kimono as I *clack-clacked* along in my geta!



In cooler weather, geta are often worn with tabi socks.



Saami Reindeer Boots

Next, Grandma sent me some Saami (SAH-mee) reindeer boots from Lapland. That's the part of Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia that is north of the Arctic Circle.

These boots are very warm.

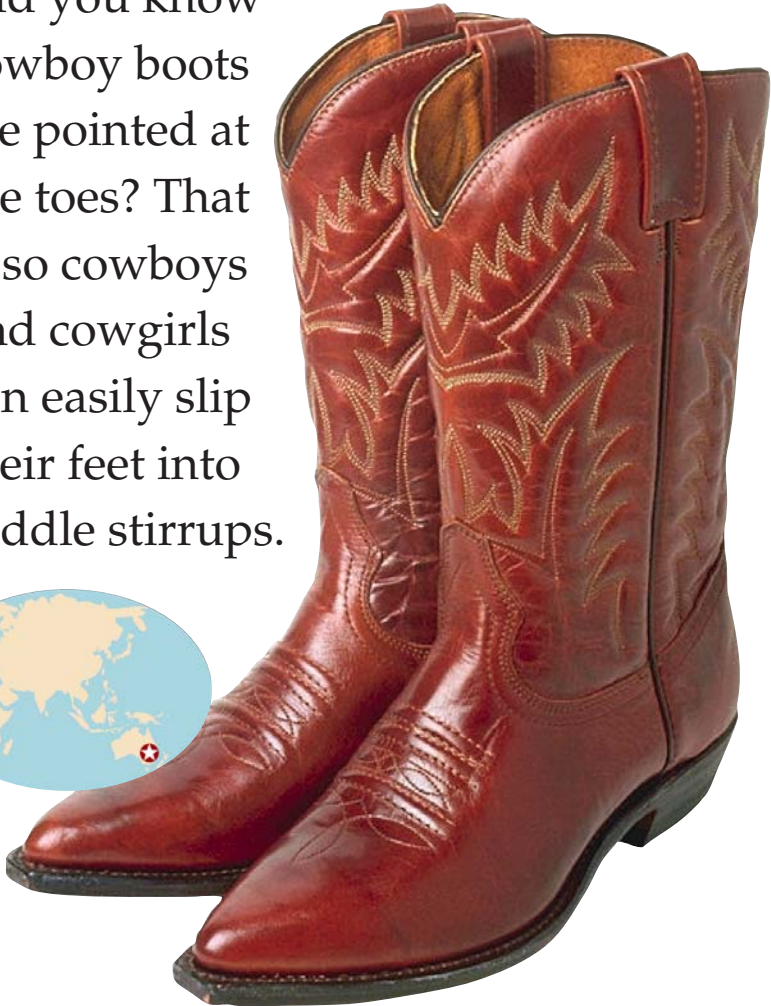
See how the toes turn up? That's to help people walk through the snow. The boots tie around your ankle to keep the snow out and the heat in.



Cowboy Boots

Near the end of her trip, Grandma went to Australia. My cowboy boots came from there.

Did you know cowboy boots are pointed at the toes? That is so cowboys and cowgirls can easily slip their feet into saddle stirrups.





Cowboy boots are tall to protect cowboys from cactuses and snakes. I hope Grandma did not run into any snakes in Australia!

African Sandals

Last, Grandma sent me some sandals from West Africa. It's very hot there. That's why these sandals have such thick soles. Thick soles protect your feet from the hot ground. Also, sandals let air move around your feet to keep you cool.





geta



cowboy boots



bowling shoes



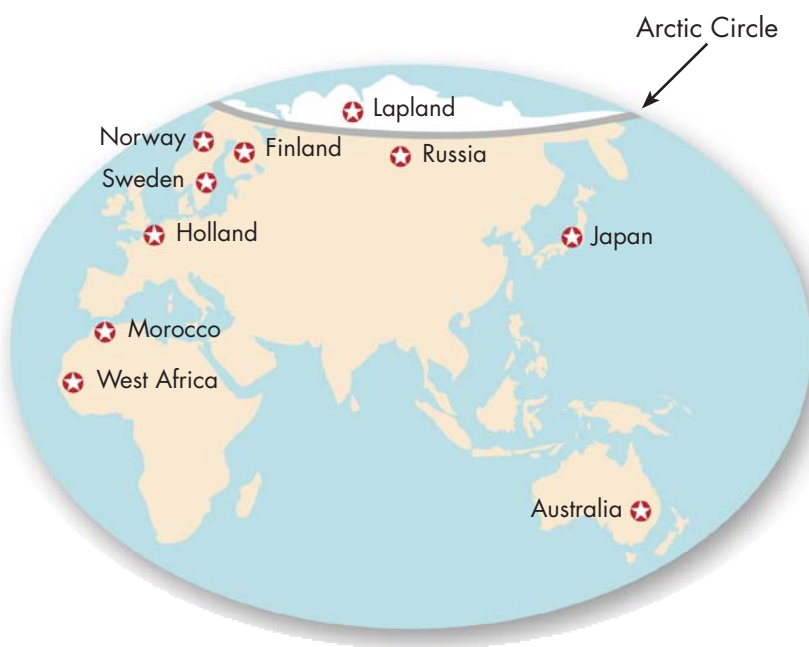
baby shoes



klompen

Conclusion

People around the world wear different kinds of shoes. They wear different shoes at different times. They wear different shoes for different reasons. Just like me!



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