



MOCCASINS

We call Native American shoes “Moccasins.” They are very different depending upon the tribe that made them.

There are many differences between moccasins from one tribe and moccasins from another tribe. The sole of the shoe is different depending upon where the tribe lived. If the tribe lived in the east the sole was made of deerskin. This created a soft-soled shoe. If the tribe lived in the west the sole was made of buffalo or moose hide. This made the sole much harder.

Another difference was the stitching on the moccasin. These shoes were hand-made. Stitching patterns changed from tribe to tribe.

Decoration on the moccasin also made them different. Fur, ribbons, or bells might be added while making the shoe. Beads and quills made colorful designs. Indian people could identify a person’s tribe from the pattern on his/her footwear.

We think of moccasins as all the same. They are not. There have always been many different kinds of moccasins just as there have always been many different kinds of Native Americans.