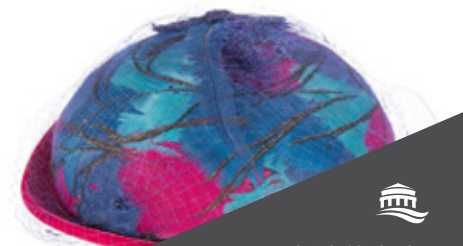


# Virtual Discovery Kit.

*Be curious.* | GRAND  
RAPIDS  
PUBLIC  
MUSEUM

## Hats.



Explore the hats in the GRPM digital Collections at <https://grpmcollections.org/Detail/occurrences/328> then have fun with these activities.

## Historical Evidence of Hats and Headwear

Historians and archeologists find that people wore hats and headwear dating back thousands of years ago.

### 5,000 year old hat-wearer

- In the 1990s, a mummified body was found in the ice of the Italian Alps. It was the body of an adult male that scientists named Otzi the Iceman.
- Otzi was found wearing a cap made from the hide of a brown bear. This discovery shows a hat being worn almost 5,300 years ago!<sup>2</sup>



### 4,000 year old Egyptian hats

- Evidence of ancient Egyptians wearing cone-shaped objects on their head have been found in artwork and images from tombs, papyri (paper) and coffins. These hats seem to have been part of rituals or ceremonies.<sup>3</sup>
- Archeologists have recently found mummies buried with cone-shaped hats. Research concluded that the hats were made from beeswax.<sup>4</sup>

### Red liberty caps have long symbolized freedom

- This style of liberty cap, also known as a Phrygian Cap, traces its history back to the ancient kingdom of Phrygia.
- In ancient Rome, these hats symbolized freedom and were given to freed slaves in a ceremony announcing their new status.<sup>6 7</sup>
- These red caps were used in the late 1700s in France, during the French Revolution. The revolutionaries wore this style cap which they called a “Bonnet Rouge” as a symbol of liberty.<sup>8 9</sup>



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2016/aug/18/it-becometh-the-iceman-otzi-clothing-study-reveals-stylish-secrets-of-leather-loving-ancient>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/antiquity/article/from-representation-to-reality-ancient-egyptian-wax-head-cones-from-amarna/4D5FA4C424606455FF935FFF07C1E5E2>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.sciencealert.com/curious-head-cones-in-ancient-egyptian-art-were-actually-real-hats>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.languedoc-france.info/06141204\\_libertycap.htm](http://www.languedoc-france.info/06141204_libertycap.htm)

<sup>7</sup> <https://ageofrevolution.org/200-object/phrygian-cap/>

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Richard Wrigley, “Transformations of a revolutionary emblem: The Liberty Cap in the French Revolution, French History 11(2) 1997:131–169.

## Categories of Hats and Headwear

The reasons why people wear specific types of headwear generally fall into three main categories, described below.



Russian soldier near Moscow in 1992 wearing the ushanka with ear flaps tied up.

- 1. Practical/Functional Headwear:** Hats and headwear are often designed for a practical purpose, such as keeping the sun out of your eyes or rain off your head.

**Example: Ushanka - Russia**

The Ushanka is a fur hat with flaps that keep the ears warm; in fact, the word ushanka in Russian means “ear hat.” The ear flaps are attached to strings which can be used to tie them on top of the head or at the chin. This hat style is often associated with Russia and the Soviet Union, where soldiers wore ushankas to protect themselves from freezing temperatures.

- What kind of headwear do you wear that protects you from the heat, cold, sun or rain? <sup>10 11</sup>



Balanced on the dugout boat, a T'boli fisherman wears a salakot. <sup>13</sup>

- 2. Traditional/Cultural Headwear:** Many hats are worn as part of long-established cultural traditions.

**Example: Salakot - Philippines**

The salakot is an example of Filipino headwear that has been around for centuries. It is a dome or cone-shaped hat, usually made of natural materials like bamboo or other plant fibers. Salakots were first worn to protect farmers and fisherman from the sun and rain. Over time, the salakot began to be made of more extravagant materials and became a symbol of power and wealth. It is now a common symbol of Filipino identity.

- What kinds of hats and headwear are part of American culture? <sup>12</sup>



Men wearing Dastar headwear. <sup>15</sup>

- 3. Religious Headwear:** Religions often have headwear associated with practices and rituals.

**Example: Dastar - Sikhism**

The dastar (Dastār or Dastaar) is an example of headwear associated with the Sikhism religion. This turban-style headwear is an essential part of Sikh spirituality, practices, and identity. Those who participate in the Sikh practice of “kesh,” or uncut hair, may use a dastar to tie up their long hair on top of their heads.

- What kinds of religious practices/rituals are important to people you know? <sup>14</sup>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.historyofhats.net/hat-history/ushanka/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://russiapedia.rt.com/of-russian-origin/ushanka/>

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.unesco-ichcap.org/eng/ek/sub3/pdf\\_file/domain5/095\\_Salakot\\_and\\_Other\\_Headgear.pdf](https://www.unesco-ichcap.org/eng/ek/sub3/pdf_file/domain5/095_Salakot_and_Other_Headgear.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/sikhism/customs/fiveks.shtml>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/sep/13/why-do-sikhs-wear-turbans-google-answer#img-1>

## Museum Artifact Study

Artifacts are all around us; they are the objects humans make and use. They frame our understanding of our world and the people in it. Everyday objects hold many stories and pieces of information that we can uncover! Take a shoe for instance. It can become the spark for a study of fashion or advertising; it can generate comparisons of human and animal feet; it could even spark questions about gender, sports and culture.<sup>16</sup>

### ‘Reading’ an Object

Museums tell the story of the past through objects or artifacts made by or used by people in those times. Learning to ‘read’ an artifact is a skill to be acquired through practice, just like reading a book. Artifact observation helps teach us how to really look at an object and make inferences. Some questions you can ask of any artifact are:

#### What is it?

- Describe or draw the object.
- What does it look like, feel like, sound like?
- How big is it?
- What materials is it made from?

#### What Was it Used For?

- What can you infer based on your observations?

#### Who Made the Object?

- Who used it? Owned it?

#### How Has it Changed Over Time?

- Do we use the same or similar object today? If yes, explain.
- If we no longer use the object, what has taken its place?

#### What is the Object's Social Significance?

- Why was it chosen for this collection?
- What story does it tell us? What can we learn from it?

#### Where Was This Object Created?

- Where was it used?
- What can we learn about this object based on where it came from?

#### When Was This Object Created/Used?

- What does this tell us about the time period in which the object was created?
- What can we learn about the world through this piece? How has the world changed?

**Practice your artifact observations with the Artifact Observations guide!**  
You can make a detailed observation of each item in the [Hats Discovery Kit Collection](#).



<sup>16</sup> A Teacher's Guide to Learning from Objects, Gail Durbin, Susan Morris, Sue Wilkinson, 1990, English Heritage.

Artifact Observations

Object Name:\_\_\_\_\_ Accession Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe and/or sketch your detailed observations of the object.

Consider its texture, appearance, shape, and size. Record labels, patterns, markings and anything else you think is interesting!

Record Measurements:

Don't forget the units!

Length: \_\_\_\_\_

Width:\_\_\_\_\_

Height: \_\_\_\_\_

Record Materials.

What is the object made from?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Other thoughts and wonderings.

What did you learn about this object?

What are you curious about?

## The American Cowboy and The Iconic “Cowboy Hat”

The “cowboy” is a classic American concept. The tough, hard-working and independent image of the cowboy is symbolized in popular culture by none other than the cowboy hat. You will almost never see an image of a cowboy without some type of hat on his head.



19

African American cowboy, Nat Love, circa 1907. At the time, around 1 in 4 cowboys were African American, though cowboys are rarely portrayed as such in the media.<sup>20</sup>



17

A Stetson “Boss of the Plains” cowboy hat. First produced in 1865, this cowboy hat was produced with the life of a cowboy in mind.<sup>18</sup>

**Investigate:** The picture below is of cowboys moving a herd of cattle from one area to another, a process known as a cattle drive, in Texas between 1916 and 1917. **Based on your close observations of this picture, answer the analysis questions below.**



21

- Describe the environment around these cowboys. What do you see in the surroundings?

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- Describe the cowboys. What do you notice about how they look? How about their clothing?

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- What do you think made the shape and style of the cowboy hat so helpful to cowboys? List at least 2 reasons.

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## References from previous page:

<sup>17</sup> <https://nationalcowboymuseum.org/explore/history-of-the-cowboy-hat/>

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

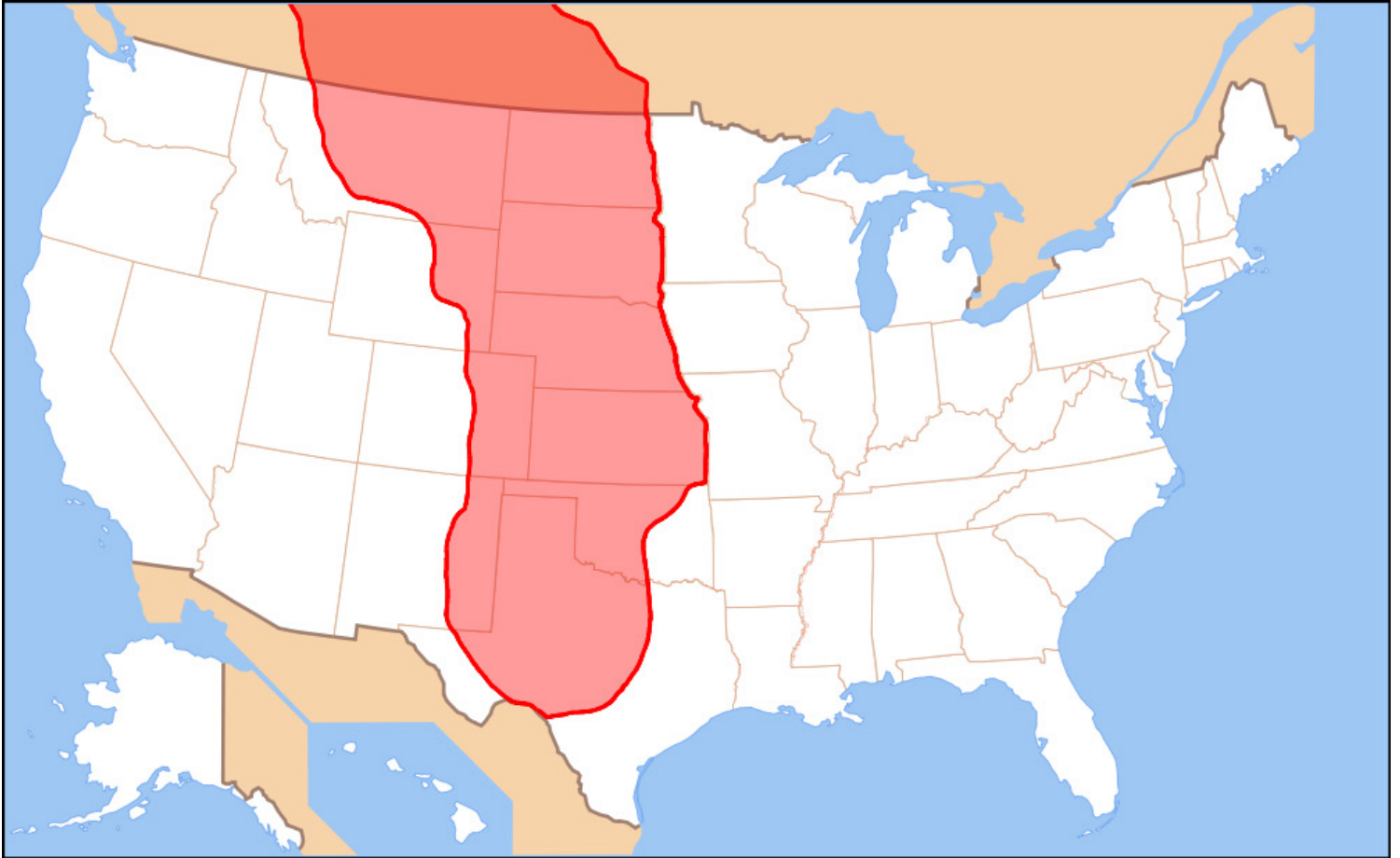
<sup>19</sup> <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2014/06/01/317441998/on-the-trail-of-black-cowboys-from-nat-love-to-sheriff-bart>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/lesser-known-history-african-american-cowboys-180962144/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph43414/>

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**Geography Challenge:** The cowboys of the 19th and 20th centuries often lived and worked in the Great Plains, which is an area of land in the United States, Canada and Mexico with open plains for cattle ranching and fertile soil for farming. Below is a map of the United States with the Great Plains highlighted in red.below.



- Label the states that are included in the Great Plains region. Use your prior knowledge or look up a labeled U.S. map.
- Count the number of states that have some area in the Great Plains. How many are there?

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- Think of your favorite TV shows or movies. Can you think of any other types of hats that are commonly shown with certain characters or styles?

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## Design a Kentucky Derby Hat

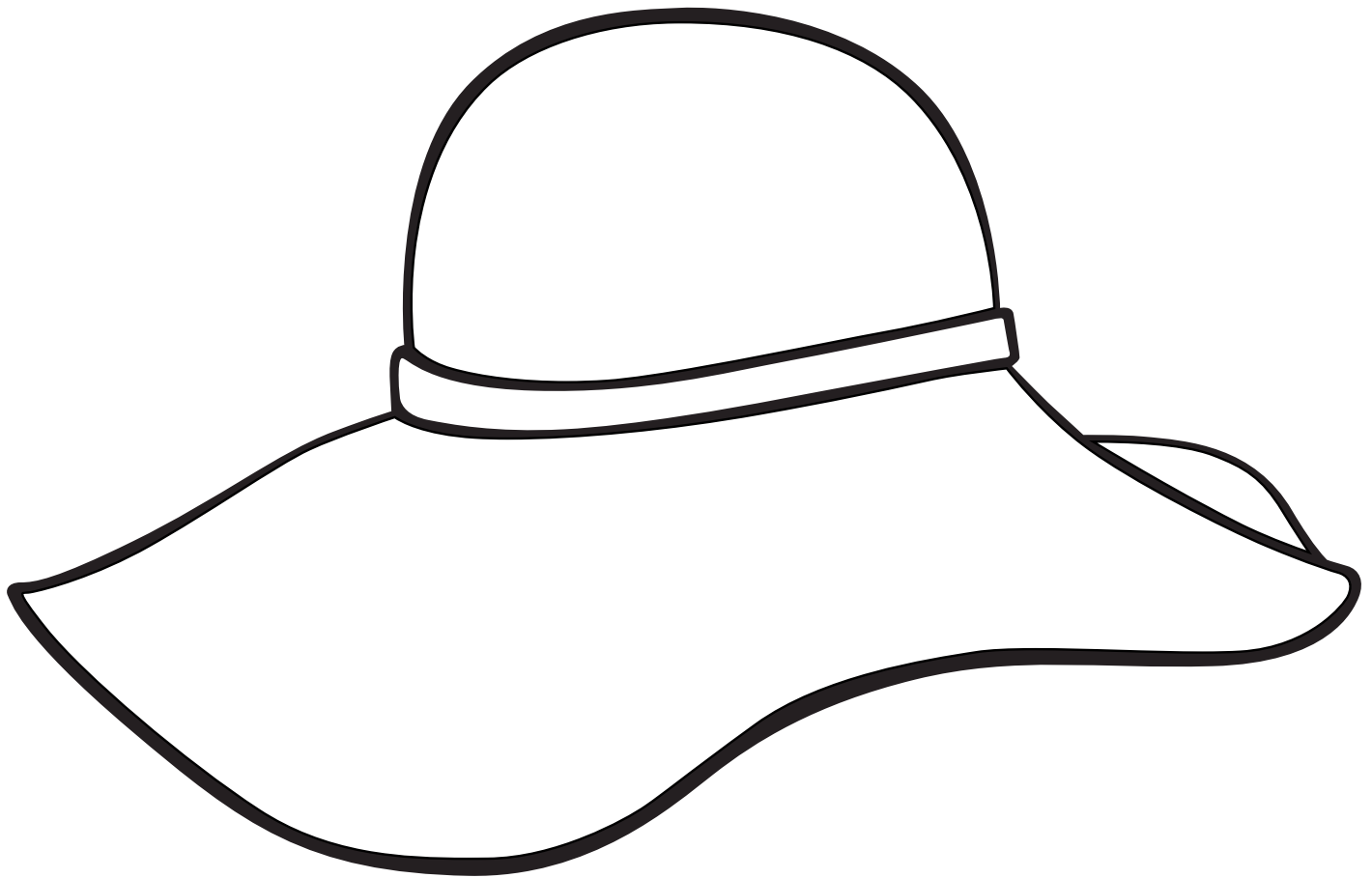
The Kentucky Derby is one of the most famous horse races in the world, and is even referred to as the “greatest two minutes in sports.” As part of the tradition of the event, spectators wear eccentric, fun and beautifully decorated hats. This practice dates all the way back to the first Kentucky Derby, hosted in 1875.<sup>22</sup> Originally, only women wore elaborate headpieces, but nowadays men and women both participate in this fun fashion.

Hat selection for the Kentucky Derby is a matter of creativity and individual expression. Some are big-brimmed, colorful, feathery, and flowery, while others are conservative, elegant and dignified. There is even a hat parade at the event where people show off their most fantastic hats.<sup>23</sup>



“The Best (and Biggest) Hats at the 2019 Kentucky Derby.” Forbes.

Experience a bit of this southern tradition by designing your own hat. The Kentucky Derby hat is a matter of individual expression and creativity, so make it fun! **Use the photos above for inspiration to decorate and color a Kentucky Derby hat.**



We'd love to see your creativity! Share your Derby Hat design with us at [info@grpm.org](mailto:info@grpm.org)

<sup>22</sup> <https://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/women-wear-hats-kentucky-derby/story?id=38927117>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.kentuckyderby.com/history/traditions/hats>

Evolution of the Military Combat Helmet

Studying the changes in these combat helmets gives a great example of how military technology has changed over time. Examine these 3 examples of combat helmets worn by the United States military.

1917 World War I “Brodie Helmet”	1941 World War II M1 Helmet	2003 Advanced Combat Helmet
<div></div> <div><p><b>Weight:</b> 1.3 lbs</p><p><b>Material:</b> Manganese-steel alloy</p><p><b>Details:</b></p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No real face, ear or neck protection</li><li>• Provides some protection from shrapnel (bomb fragments) and debris raining down from explosions</li></ul></div>	<div></div> <div><p><b>Weight:</b> 2.85 lbs</p><p><b>Material:</b> Manganese-steel outer shell and inner fiber-plastic liner</p><p><b>Details:</b></p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Small lip in front to keep rain off of soldiers</li><li>• Metal on the sides to protect ears</li><li>• Provides some protection from shrapnel (bomb fragments) and debris raining down from explosions</li></ul></div>	<div></div> <div><p><b>Weight:</b> 2.4 lbs</p><p><b>Material:</b> Kevlar 129 and a shock-absorbing inner liner</p><p><b>Details:</b></p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Camouflage design</li><li>• Protections of the ears and neck</li><li>• Hard side protection against bullets, shrapnel, and shell fragments</li><li>• Shock-absorbing liner protects against traumatic brain injury from bombs <sup>25</sup></li></ul></div>

Compare and contrast these cars:

- Describe at least 2 differences you notice among the helmets.
- What safety protections do newer versions of the military helmet have that older versions do not?
- The Advanced Combat Helmet has a shock-absorbing liner to protect against concussions and traumatic brain injury from roadside bombs and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Newer sports helmets in many sports have similar shock-absorbing technologies. **Consider:**
  - Which sport helmets might need this same kind of protection?
  - Why might the athletes playing that sport need similar shock-absorbing protection?

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/how-military-helmet-evolved-hazard-bullet-shield-180963319/>

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

**What Do You Think?**

- What is the most interesting thing you learned in this Virtual Discovery Kit?

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- What kind of hats or headwear have you worn? Which is your favorite?

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- What other types of hats or headwear do you know of that are used for religious, cultural or practical purposes?  
Try to describe at least 2 examples.

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- What is one question you still have about hats?

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- What do you think is the coolest hat in this kit? Why?

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- Sketch or describe a story of you wearing your favorite hat!

## Learn more!

- The GRPM has an extensive hats and headwear related collection outside of the Hats Discovery Kit. Explore the vast collection of headwear in the GRPM's collection.

<https://grpmcollections.org/Detail/collections/330>

- Explore a number of other examples of hats and headwear from around the world.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/hat>

- The National Museum of American History has a webpage titled "American Hats." Learn about a variety of hats worn by Americans over the years.

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/treasures/american-hats>

- Check out the National Hat Museum, America's largest hat museum.

<https://www.thehatmuseum.com/the-national-hat-museum>

- If you are interested in more hats to color and design, this website has lots of fun outlines of styles to print and color.

<http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/tags/hat>