

Textile fashion

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Ear ornaments ···



These ear ornaments are carved from whale teeth. The thin pointed part is put through the ear lobe, the flat disc is then attached and worn flat on the front of the ear lobe. These are from Micronesia, are known as *Hakakai* and were worn by men and women on special occasions.

···· 🗲 2 Mudcloth tunic ·······



This hunter's tunic is from Mali, West Africa. It is made from a material known as 'mud cloth or *bogolanfini*. Strips of cotton cloth are dyed brown with river mud and sewn together to form a tunic. The earthy colour colour helps to camouflages the wearer with the landscape as they track wild animals.

3 Tehuelche necklace ······



This necklace from South America is hung with the dried hooves of an animal called a guanaco, a wild species of llama. The Tehuelche people who made this necklace hunted the guanaco eating its meat, making clothing or shelter from its hide and melting its fat to use as body insulating grease.

Beads have many different uses in African tradition, one of them as decoration for clothing. The differently coloured beads and detailed designs have different meanings, and were a way of communicating information about the wearer - for instance if they were married.



6 Hadza clothing ·····

Made from the preserved skin of an animal, this was worn by the Hadza people, a nomadic group living in Northern Tanzania. Nomads move from place to place, making use of natural resources to survive. The decorations indicate the status of the wearer.



This child's dress is from Afghanistan probably from the mid 20th century. The cowrie shells and metal charms decorating it were believed to protect the wearer from the evil eye or a curse. Do you have a lucky charm or talisman?

8 Warrior's helmet ·······

The skin of a porcupine fish has been used to make this warrior's helmet from the Micronesian Island of Kiribati (in the Pacific). Making this would been dangerous as the porcupine fish is very poisonous, but worth it as the sharp spines would protect the wearer from anyone getting too close.

► 9 Coconut palm raincoat …

Hand woven from coconut palm fibre, this traditional raincoat was worn by farmers, and fishermen in the wet, rainy fields of China. The close weaving makes the coat waterproof and the simple cape style design allows the rain to run off.

10 Bark cloth

···≻ 5 Haida hat ······



This rain hat was woven from cedar bark by a Haida weaver. The Haida people live in the rainy Northwest coast of America where a waterproof hat is essential. This hat is decorated with images of animals - probably a killer whale and Raven, two very important creatures in Haida culture. This looks like fabric, but is actually made from the beaten fibres tree bark, and is known as bark cloth. Adding tree gum to the matted fibres strengthens and helps to waterproof them. This example from Fiji has been stencilled with designs made from natural dyes.



