

Our past and present - Footwear

Comprehension Activity: The Hob-nail boot

A hob-nail boot is a heavy-duty, hard-wearing work boot with hob-nails in the sole to make them last longer and to provide grip on muddy ground.

In the past, army boots used to be made of 100% leather. Hob-nails were then hammered into them to provide grip on the soles.

They were worn to provide traction on soft or rocky ground and snow, but tended to slide on smooth hard surfaces.

The hob-nail, which is a short nail with a thick head, were usually installed in a regular pattern over the sole of the boot.

Other special features of the hob-nail boot included an iron horseshoe-shaped insert, called a heel iron, for strengthening the heel and steel toe-caps to protect the toes.



Images courtesy of Australian History Museum, Macquarie University

Questions:

1. What is a hob-nail boot? _____

2. What makes the hob-nail boot special? _____





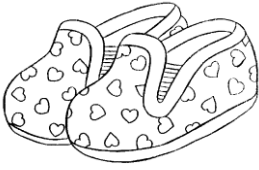
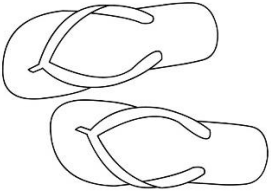

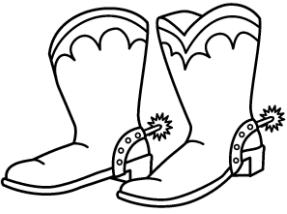
3. Who wore the hob-nail boot? _____

4. What kind of surfaces was the hob-nail boot best for? _____

5. What do the special features on the hob-nail boot provide? _____

Special Features & Purpose - Activity Sheet 1

Write down the special feature or features of the footwear below and describe their purpose.

			
<p>Special feature: Metal blade on bottom of shoe</p> <p>Purpose: Skating on ice</p>	<p>Special feature:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Purpose:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Special feature:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Purpose:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Special feature:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Purpose:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
			
<p>Special feature:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Purpose:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Special feature:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Purpose:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Special feature:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Purpose:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Special feature:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Purpose:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

Special Features & Purpose - Activity Sheet 2



Design your own footwear below including at least one special feature and describe its purpose.

Draw your design here

What special features does your footwear design have?

What purposes do your special features fulfil?
