

Resource 13.

Native American head dress making



The Wampanoag Indians didn't wear long headdresses like the Sioux. Usually they wore a beaded headband with a feather or two in it.

A Wampanoag chief might wear a headdress made of feathers pointing straight up from a headband. Wampanoag women had long hair, but a man would often wear his hair in the Mohawk style or shave his head completely except for a scalplock (one long lock of hair on top of his head.) Wampanoag warriors also painted their faces, and sometimes decorated their bodies with tribal tattoos.

Wampanoag women wore knee-length skirts.

Wampanoag men wore breechcloths with leggings. Neither women nor men had to wear shirts in the Wampanoag culture, but they would dress in deerskin mantles during cool weather. The Wampanoags also wore moccasins on their feet.

Today, some Wampanoag people still have a traditional headband or moccasins, but they wear modern clothes like jeans instead of breechcloths... and they only wear feathers in their hair on special occasions.



How to make your own Wampanoag Head dress:

- 1) Cut a strip of card long enough to go around your head.
- 2) Decorate the card on one side with patterns and shapes. Zig zags and dots are good to use.
- 3) Glue the ends of the strip of card together to form a circle. Make sure the pattern is facing outwards!
- 4) Draw some feather shapes on card and cut them out.
- 5) Use your scissors to cut little fringes in the card to make them look more like feathers.
- 6) Glue them to the head band.
- 7) Wear your head dress with pride.

