

HOW THE FIRST MOCASSINS WERE MADE

Lenape

As told by Robert Red Hawk Ruth

This comes from our people here in PA.

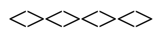
A long time ago there was a very beautiful young woman. All of the young men of the village wanted to marry her. She had her eye on one young warrior and she asked him to play his flute for her. It looked as if love was blooming. She asked him if he loved her. Of course he said, "Yes!" She said, "To prove your love, I want to walk around my wikiup, but I don't want to get my feet dirty. What can be done?"

He went into the forest and sat down to think. An elder of the tribe saw him and asked what was wrong. The young man told him. The elder thought and said "Why not kill a deer and tan the skin and lay it out in front of the wikiup?" The young man did so, and the beautiful maiden was delighted.

The next day she said "I have to go to the creek for water. Can you make sure my feet don't touch the ground?" The young man went to all of his young friends for help. They started hunting and skinning all the deer. Now the deer herd was getting too thinned out! When the elders saw what was going on, they called upon the young man and asked, "Why do you need so many deer?" He told them that the young girl didn't want her feet to get dirty. One old elder said, "Young man, take a hide and tie it onto her feet. That way she can walk where she will and we will have deer to eat."

So the young man did as he was told. The beautiful women fell madly in love with him and they married. That was how the first mocassins were made.

From that time on, women have a need for shoes. Go figure.



THE BOY AND HIS DOG

Lenape

by: Nora Thompson Dean

A long time ago there was a man who lived in a big forest. The man lived alone, except for his dog. On many evenings they would talk together, this man and his dog. Then one day the dog said, "All right my friend, let's go hunting! It seems like I can smell many squirrels toward the north." So they left to go squirrel hunting, this man and his friend.

While they were walking along a little path, the dog suddenly heard something making a rattling noise by the path. The dog said, "Stop! Stop! I hear something! It might be a rattlesnake rattling!" Then the dog grabbed the snake, and began to shake him, and shook him until he had killed the snake.

Then when they had finished hunting, they went home. The man began to cook, and he fed the dog on the ground. But finally the dog wouldn't eat; he just had a scowl on his face. The man told the dog, "What's wrong with you? Aren't you hungry?" The dog replied, "Oh yes, I am hungry, but I want to know what the reason is that you feed me on the ground! Why can I not eat at the table also?" The man said, "Oh well, you can eat with me, you can come and sit right here!" The dog smiled. He began to eat. He was eating with his friend.

Na Lenu ok Nel Mwekaneyema

Lomwe hund lenuwa xingwi shingeking wiku. Xuhanu na lenu, shek welahela mwekane. Xaheli lokwik pemetunheyok na mwekane ok na lenu. Luwe kweten kishkwik na mwekane, "Nepehta ju, alaitam! Alashi a ta nemelao xaheli xaheli xanikok luwaneyung." Na tolemskaneyo nutxanikweyok na lenu ok nel witisa.

Na enda temakaneteting enda pemeskahtit wixkawchi pwendao na mwekane keku ta pe sheshewihelat temakaneteting kixki. Na mwekane luwe, "Nahkihela! Nahkihela! Bendam keku! Na et mah na shixikwe pe sheshuhwit!" Na ika alihelalan na mwekane, tolemi tendahkanihin na xkuk, xantki wenihela nel xkuka.

Na enda kishi alaihtit, machiyok. Na leun alemi wixenu, ok toxamao haking na mwekane. Xantki na mwekane mata mitsi; manungingwexin shek. Na lenu telao na mwekane, "Keku hach ktelsi? Ku hach katupwi?" Na mwekane luwe "O, gaatupwi ta, shek gata watun wenji haking enda xamian! Keku hach wenji mata gaski mitsi ehendalipwing tali?" Na lenu luwe, "O, somi! Kaski wipumi, nepehta yushe lematahpi!" Na mwekane keleksewingwexin. Tolemi mitsin. Wipumao nel witisa.

