



Neevingatah (meaning "something to hang" in Inuktitut) is an art form unique to Canada that emerged in the 1950s with the Arctic Co-op movement. The neevingatah wall hangings typically feature felt appliquéd pictures. This piece, titled, *Young Woman, Ulus, Birds and Figures*, by Jessie Oonark of Baker Lake, Nunavut, was created in 1973.

CREATIVE CLASS

Heartfelt history

An ancient fabric, felt was a lucrative end-product of the North American fur trade. But its uses go far beyond beaver hats.

Felt is an ancient material that helped propel the economy of the New World thanks to its popularity during the early fur trade.

Now, an online exhibition is exploring the history of this versatile material. *Beaver Hats to Hockey Pads*, presented by Kathryn Walter of FELT studio in Toronto, looks at the many historical and cultural uses of felt.

Felt is created by pressing animal fibres until they latch together, and is the oldest known textile.

During the fur trade era, felt from beaver furs was especially prized by hatters thanks to its lustrous qualities. Since the nineteenth century, felt has largely been manufactured from wool. And more recently, felters have utilized synthetic materials such as rayon and acrylic.

Thanks to its elasticity and absorbency, felt became an important engineering material as countries embraced industrialization. It also remains a popular material in art and design. Explore the online exhibition at FeltStudio.com.



Felt hats made from furs were popular in Europe from the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries. This cavalier-style beaver hat is a fine example of felt craftsmanship.



A selection of felt pennants.



In the early days of hockey, equipment was largely homemade. Some players, inspired by felt-padded horse collars seen in harness shops, sewed felt into their undergarments for protection against pucks. By the 1920s, felt had become a common component of hockey equipment in chest pads, shoulder pads, shin guards, and knee pads.

Protect Your Feet in Wintry Weather



FELT LINERS FOR ON-THE-JOB COMFORT

22 MEN'S LOW-CUT FELT LINERS for wear inside rubbers, moccasins, etc. Made of worst. Grey machine knit. Sizes 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. State size. 1.99 37-47080.

23 HIGH-CUT PACK FILLERS made of thick Black Felt to use in various places: over apron flaps. Wear with high- or low-cut rubbers. Sizes 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. 4.45 37-47079.

24 MEN'S GREY FELT BOOT SOCKS in lower length. . . about 9 inches. Thick worsted felt machine knit. Men's Sizes 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. State size. 3.99 37-47078.

25 BOOT SOCKS AND HIGH RUBBER OVERS . . . wear the set for cold-weather outdoor work. One piece knitted socks of thick Grey Felt. Black Rubber Overs to 9-inch length. Heavy, around-cropping, corrugated, roll-edge sides and solid heels. Men's Sizes 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. State size when ordering. Chills 9.95 37-47076.

26 MEN'S GREY FELT BOOT SOCKS . . . may be worn inside rubbers, moccasins, etc. for cold-weather comfort. Knitted in one machine piece, approximately knee length. Reinforced at water joints with leather strip bond. Men's Sizes 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. Be sure to state size wanted. 4.98 37-47077.

Eaton's catalogue, 1963. EATON'S 283

TOP RIGHT: THE IMPERIAL OIL TIBETOSKY COLLECTION; HOCKEY HALL OF FAME; BOTTOM CENTRE: THE FELT STORE; BOTTOM RIGHT: TIZZI

COURTESY WALKERS ALZIONS, OTTAWA; PHOTO BY DIETER HESSEL



Felt has properties of high permeability and is found in many forms of filters. Felt determines the tone and texture of maple syrup by filtering out the sugar sand to achieve the desired consistency.

Felt does not fray and so can be die-cut for machine parts. Felt production peaked during the Second World War, when it was used in the manufacture of armaments and ammunition, including as wadding for shells.