



## Make a Mesolithic Shoe

This pattern is based on a hide shoe found in Drumacoon Bog, Co Cavan. Dated to the Iron Age (750BC to 399 AD), this is the oldest shoe yet found in Ireland and may be similar to those worn in Mesolithic or Neolithic times.

Each pupil will need:

- 1 pair sharp scissors
- 2 dressmaker's pins
- a piece of imitation leather large enough to fit your pattern
- 1 large tapestry needle
- heavy duty linen thread
- leather cord

### Directions:

Use a photocopier to enlarge the pattern overleaf so that the dotted outline is roughly the same size as your pupils' feet.

Ask each pupil to cut out the paper pattern and pin it to their piece of leather.

Then they should cut out the leather, carefully following the edge of the paper pattern.

Leaving the paper in place, use the scissors to punch small holes through the paper and leather where they are marked (you will probably have to do this for your pupils) and remove the paper.



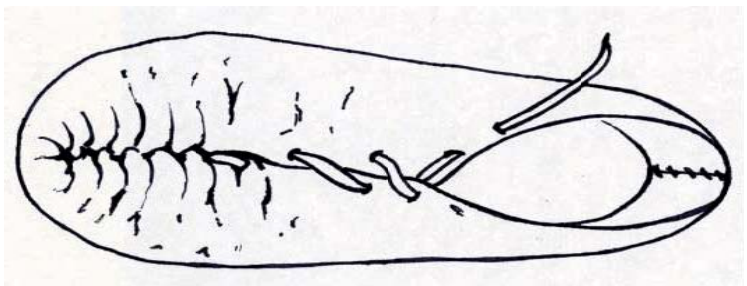
Fold the leather in half lengthways and sew the heel together, tying the thread securely at the top.

Open out the toe of the shoe and draw the thread in and out through the holes along its edge, leaving about 5cm of thread loose at each end.

Take the two ends of the thread in your hand and pull, drawing the leather in to create a toe shape.

Tie the ends of the thread together to hold the toe in place.

Cut a short piece of leather cord and thread it through the two larger holes across the top of the shoe as a lace.



# Activity Sheet

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