

# Cap

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White child's cap with red piping.

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Accession Number 2022.18.12

Period 20th century

Materials fiber

Measurements 44,39 x 36,5 cm

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## Historical context

This pointed headdress, called shatshimeu-akunishkueun in Innuaimun, is used to protect the head from hematophagous insects such as black flies, fireflies, mosquitoes and horsefly or deer flies, which abound in the boreal forest. This practical accessory is not exclusive to the Innu nation; it is also found among other nations in the Subarctic and Northern Eastern Forest cultural areas.

In the past, these hoods were made from the thin, supple skin of caribou calves or fetuses. The 1930s saw a gradual decline in the use of caribou hide for Innu (Innuat) clothing. In addition to fabrics obtained from trading posts and stores, fabric packaging such as flour sacks was sometimes recovered and used to make these hoods. This piece of clothing is still part of the Innuat wardrobe. It can also be found on the heads of small dolls intended for tourists, representing swaddled babies.

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Photo by Victor Diaz Lamich