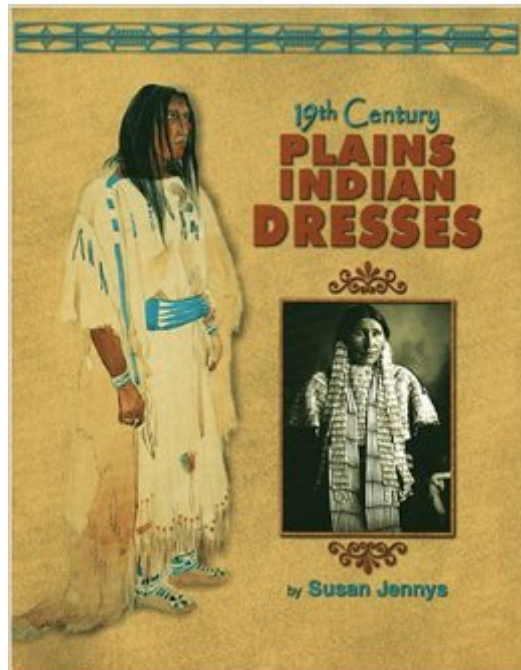


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# 19th Century Plains Indian Dresses



## Synopsis

Covering the Northern, Central and Southern Plains, as well as the Plateau, this comprehensive craft guide shows how to recreate both the cloth and hide dresses of the 19th century, as well as the accessories worn with them. Using original texts and other period source material, the author discusses the historical background and tribal styles in vogue from the time of Lewis and Clark to the beginning of the reservation period. Lavisly illustrated with drawings by Alex Koslov and many full color photos of some of the most exquisite original examples from world collections, this beautiful volume contains a wealth of information that no Indian craftworker or living history buff will want to be without.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

At last, a book with detailed information as to how to create authentic dresses of various tribes. The book also provides details on the correct moccasin style for each dress discussed. Great attention is given to the decorative elements of each dress. The book even discusses the various types of hides available, indicating which tanning method provides the most authentic appearance.

19th Century Plains Indian DressesI make Native American dolls and their traditional clothing. This book is going to prove invaluable to me as reference for authenticity and style which I am trying to achieve in my dolls. Susan Jennys has provided excellent history and style information to allow me to make clothes that are properly made to represent specific tribal styles. The instructions are

detailed and easy to follow and I find it very easy to look at the patterns and adjust them to the size I need for my dolls. I am also a writer for a Native American web site and this book will be a great resource and reference for me in relation to the issues I cover in my articles, newsletters and forum.

Since I was a little kid, I've always had a great interest in Native American culture. I was skipping through books on needlework and the title of this book caught my eye. After reading the glowing reviews, I bought it and it's a gem! When I was a teen, my aunt and I hooked up with a group of Eagle Scouts who got authentic Native American costumes, learned the dances and went to powwows around the country. My aunt bought a real doeskin dress, probably northern plains Cheyenne. We replicated a dress for me out of off-white heavy felt. We both got authentic moccasins, shawls and jewelry and I made the beaded bands on a loom that I sewed onto the shoulders of my dress. We learned the dances by following the women and had a grand time camping out and attending the "49's" which were partying late into the night. We got invited to be in a parade and go to a middle school to display the costumes and dancing. This book breaks down the 4 types of women's dresses: the Sidefold, the Two-Hide or "Tail" Dress, the Three-Hide Dress and the Tradecloth Dress. I quickly discerned from the excellent photos and diagrams that ours were in the Three-Hide style. The photos of women and girls in their dresses are remarkable for their modern look with a lack of paternalism. There are even more photos of just the dresses and very good close-ups showing each element of each piece of clothing and accessories. For example, Crow women usually wore "Saved-List" Tradecloth dresses. I had no idea that this fabric is all wool and that much of it was imported from England where we still get fine wools. It's call tradecloth because it was a common commodity for bartering. "Saved-list" refers to the dyeing and cutting process. The cloth was not made from dyed fibers but the whole cloth made of white wool yarn and then dyed "in the whole" except the edges or "lists." Thus the approximately 1" edges remained white having been "saved" from the dye. These outfits are very striking as they are often dyed brilliant deep reds and blues and then dotted throughout with elk teeth. There is a close-up picture of two each of genuine elk teeth, resin, carved bone and plastic so you can decide how much you want to pony up to decorate yours. My favorite two pictures are in b&w. One is of a young woman, Sarah Grandmothers, standing full-length facing the camera who shut her eyes and stuck out her tongue, just unable to resist poking fun at the photographer. The photo is over a century old. The other pic is of adorable little Katie Roubideaux, a Rosebud Sioux; she is in her fully beaded buckskin dress and moccasins and holding a little doll with similar dress her mother made for her. She has the most intelligent, pensive look on her face. She is 8 and this photo was taken in 1898...it looks

like it could have been taken last week. Every page is interesting here. Literally, the only complaint I have of the entire book is the cover: I think the image on the left looks like a man! Otherwise, a perfect book particularly if you want to use it for its intended purpose: to make yourself an authentic Native American dress.

This is an amazing book! It is a must have for anyone who wants to create authentic Native American dresses. The attention to detail is amazing! The book describes the four basic styles of dresses and how to construct each one. Beads, elk teeth, cowrie shells, trade cloth dresses, and many other design features are discussed. It also describes the beliefs and thought processes that went and goes into making these dresses. I will never put this book down and have used it for every project I have made since I bought it!

Every detail you could hope for, including types of pelt that would be historically accurate. This book looks at these historic dresses as the works of art they are. Hey, fashion designers...these dresses have been considered the ultimate in beauty for hundreds of years, if you bring back the 60's and 80's, why not these dresses? They would actually be worth the thousands designer clothes demand! This book has beautiful, authentic pictures and sketches from the period, complete with names of the women pictured. I see this as valuable for people who are descended from these women. A great way to get pictures of your ancestors if you are lucky enough to know the name and they happen to be in this book! I'd buy it again. A great addition to my Native book collection!

This is the best book available that shows how to construct Native American dresses in all the styles. From 2 hide to 3 hide, how to condition the leather, choose hides, and even decorating them with bead work, etc. It has some history on the different area native women, I would recommend this book to anyone interested in making a dress.

I needed info on beading on leather. This was a great resource. Nice pictures and instructions.

Since buying this book I have personally spent some time with Susan and not only find the book extremely helpful but her kind personality welcome. Great reference book to have!

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