



BLACK ROCK DESERT  
HIGH ROCK CANYON  
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

## SOLDIER MEADOWS

### 10,000 Years of Camping: Fashion Through the Years

#### Ancient People

- Probably wore animal pelts.

#### Paiute Indians

- Rarely wore clothing. During extremely cold weather, they wore animal pelts as cloaks.

#### Emigrants

- Men's clothing was commonly made from flannel, buckskin, wool, jean or cotton.
- Around 1800 men started to wear long pantaloons, short, snug coats, and tall hats. Working clothes came into fashion as a reflection of the rise of industrialization.
- "Men were advised to wear 'hickory shirts, red or blue flannel shirts, stout boot, woolen pants, pepper-salt cloth pants, woolen socks, and a coat' while out on the Trail They took neckerchiefs, mittens, breeches, several types of hats and boots, gaiters, trousers, coats, several types of pants and shirts(1)."
- "Men on the Oregon Trail also rarely wore drawers, both because they were useless and because they wore down very quickly from walking. One mention of breeches came from Adrietta Applegate Hixon, who wrote (at Fort Hall, Idaho): "...There were a few soldiers and other white men, also some Indian squaws, about this fort. Some of those white men were wearing buck-skin breeches (1)."
- "Buckskin was the only fabric that could stand up to the wear and tear of the trail, as homespun would snag and tear on the twigs and briars (1)."
- Women most commonly wore flannel, wool, and calico.
- Rural women wore plain, floor-length dresses from calico, gingham, or linsey-woolsey. They owned few clothes: they had maybe two or three dresses one of which was for special occasions. They also wore large sunbonnets.
- The journey quickly made long and full skirts muddy and tattered. Nevertheless, they were skirts which could be used as "curtains."

*"Two women together, long skirts extended, lent privacy to a third...But a woman alone, where could she hide from the eyes of men? There was periodic menstruation.... There was periodic dysentery.... There was occasional childbirth.... All these functions were completed by the absence of shelter and by a lack of privacy (2)."*

1. National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center; [www.oregontrail.blm.gov/othistory/pioneer%20clothing.htm](http://www.oregontrail.blm.gov/othistory/pioneer%20clothing.htm)
2. <http://www.brainstan.com/articles/history/history2.html>





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### Today

- Today, campers wear a variety of fabrics including cotton, fleece, lycra, polyester, and gore-tex.
- Technology has provided fabrics which claim to be wind resistant, water proof, and stain resistant.

### Types of Fabric

Animal Fur (faux)  
Cotton (three types)  
Denim  
Flannel  
Fleece  
Leather (faux)

