

Voyageur Cap (Pattern 2)



Who Were the Voyageurs?

I did not write this pattern, it was an old pattern that I acquired and was written not only poorly but also incorrectly. It is a fun and cute hat and worth making. I hope I have improved upon it.-Tina Shaddox

Materials Needed: 4 oz of a worsted weight wool-bright red if you want an authentic cap

Needles that will give you 4 stitches to the inch to make a 19.5 " hat (good for a 22 inch head-adult male)

Needles that will give you 4.5 stitches to the inch to make a little over a 17" hat (good for a 20 inch head-adult female)

or Needles that will give you 5 stitches to the inch to make a smaller hat of 15.6" (good for an 19" head-older child or teen)

You will need a 16 inch circular and a set of double points in your needle size, or save money and do the hat on double points only.

Start your gauge swatch with a size 8 needle. Adjust to a larger needle size if you need fewer stitches to the inch. Adjust to a smaller needle size if you need more stitches to the inch. If you don't know the head size of the recipient, aim for 4.5 stitches to the inch. The average head size is between 20-21".

Cast on 78 stitches. Join, being careful not to twist. Place a marker at the beginning of your round.

Knit 1 Purl 1 for 2 inches.

Begin stockinette stitch (knit every row) for 4 inches (excluding ribbing).

1st decrease round

Knit 16, Knit 2 together, Knit 3, Knit 2 together, Knit 32, Knit 2 together, Knit 3, Knit 2 together, Knit 16.

Knit 3 rounds

2nd decrease round

K 15, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 30, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 15

Knit 3 rounds

3rd decrease round

K 14, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 28, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 14

Knit 3 rounds

4th decrease round

K 13, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 26, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 13

Knit 3 rounds

5th decrease round

K 12, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 24, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 12

Knit 3 rounds

6th decrease round

K 11, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 22, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 11

Knit 3 rounds

7th decrease round

K 10, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 20, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 10

Knit 3 rounds

8th decrease round

K 9, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 18, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 9

Knit 3 rounds

9th decrease round

K 8, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 16, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 8

***NOTE Knit 2 rounds**

10th decrease round

K 7, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 14, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 7

Knit 2 rounds

11th decrease round

K 6, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 12, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 6

Knit 2 rounds

12th decrease round

K 5, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 10, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 5

Knit 2 rounds

13th decrease round

K 4, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 8, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 4

Knit 2 rounds

14th decrease round

K 3, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 6, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 3

Knit 2 rounds

15th decrease round

K 2, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 4, K 2 together, K 3, K 2 together, K 2

Cut yarn leaving a 10 inch tail. Thread through remaining stitches and knot off, weaving in end on inside of hat.

Optional Tassel: Wind yarn 15 times around 4 fingers to make a loop. Remove loop from your fingers and tie together with a 10 inch long piece of yarn. Pull loop down so that it is suspended from your 10 inch tie. Take one end of the tie and wrap it several times around the loop, close to the area that is tied. You are going to make the top of the tassel look like a ball, or the head of a yarn doll. Tie off the wrapped end and let the remaining length hand down. Cut the loops that are hanging down so that the ends are even. Trim off any unwanted length. Use the remaining tie to thread through the end of your cap and fasten it off securely on the inside.

Historical Note: These caps were worn by the Voyageurs that made a name for themselves in the woods of Canada and in the Minnesota region for their hardiness and strength as they worked the fur trade. These are also similar to the style worn by the revolutionaries in France as heads rolled in the later 1700's. It was not uncommon to have such words as "Liberty" or "Fraternity" stitched into the caps near the brim and they also go by the name "Liberty Caps".

