



CHILDREN LIKE US

CLOTHES

AROUND THE WORLD



All Kinds of Clothes

Are you ready to travel the world and find out about the clothes worn by children just like you? You'll see bright colours and patterns, creative costumes, super shoes and fantastic hats as you discover what people wear and why.



Countries each have their own festivals. Can you guess why this girl from Trinidad is dressed up as a bird? Find out why on page 7.

People like to wear bright colours to send a message. Why do you think this Brazilian boy is wearing green and yellow? Find out the reason on page 18.



The history of clothes is different in every country. Discover the story behind this Ukrainian girl's flower crown on page 26.

Warm clothes are important in cold countries. What do you think this Nenets boy's cosy coat is made from? Find out the answer on page 10.

People like to dress up with jewellery. Find out about this Limbu girl's gold headdress on page 29.

Take a journey around the world to discover some fantastic clothes worn by children just like you!

National Costume

At national festivals and holidays, you might see people wearing clothes associated with their country. These children are wearing the national dress of Belarus, with white or red trousers or skirts and white embroidered shirts. The beautiful embroidery is an important part of the costume.

The embroidery on this Belarussian national dress is believed to protect the wearer from bad spirits.



In South Korea, men and women wear traditional outfits called hanbok at national festivals and weddings. On top is a short shirt called a jeogori. On the bottom, men wear loose trousers and women wear long skirts.

The long skirt in a South Korean hanbok outfit is called a chima.



This young piper is wearing the national costume of Scotland – the tartan kilt. Scottish family groups, called clans, have their own tartan colours and patterns to wear.



The Scottish national costume also includes a fur purse, called a sporran.

This girl is wearing the national costume of Tonga, which is entirely made from natural materials. Her dress is made from woven leaves and her necklace is made of seashells. Her headdress is decorated with the feathers of local birds.

The Tongan national costume always has a handmade neck garland.



Clothes in the Snow

Children who live in the world's coldest places need to wear warm clothes. This boy belongs to the Nenets people, who live in Siberia, in the far north of Russia.

It can reach an incredibly cold -50°C here, but his malitsa (coat) and trousers made from reindeer skin will keep him warm.

There are few clothes shops where this Nenets boy lives. His clothes are probably made by his family.

Nenets women wear coats called yagushkas, made from eight layers of reindeer skin.

The yellow lenses of these snow goggles cut down on the glare of the sun, which can be very strong when reflected off the white snow.

In the past, everyone wore animal skin clothing in cold parts of the world. Nowadays, people tend to wear hi-tech outfits made up of layers of fabric, like this boy's ski jacket. Air gets trapped between the layers of the jacket, helping to keep him warm.

This girl is keeping her feet warm with a kangri, while she chats to her mother in Srinagar, in the Kashmir area of India. A kangri is a small pot filled with hot embers, carried inside a wicker basket. Both the girl and her mother are wearing woolly robes called pheran over their clothes. People carry kangri under their pherans in winter.

Having a kangri is like carrying a hot water bottle around with you!

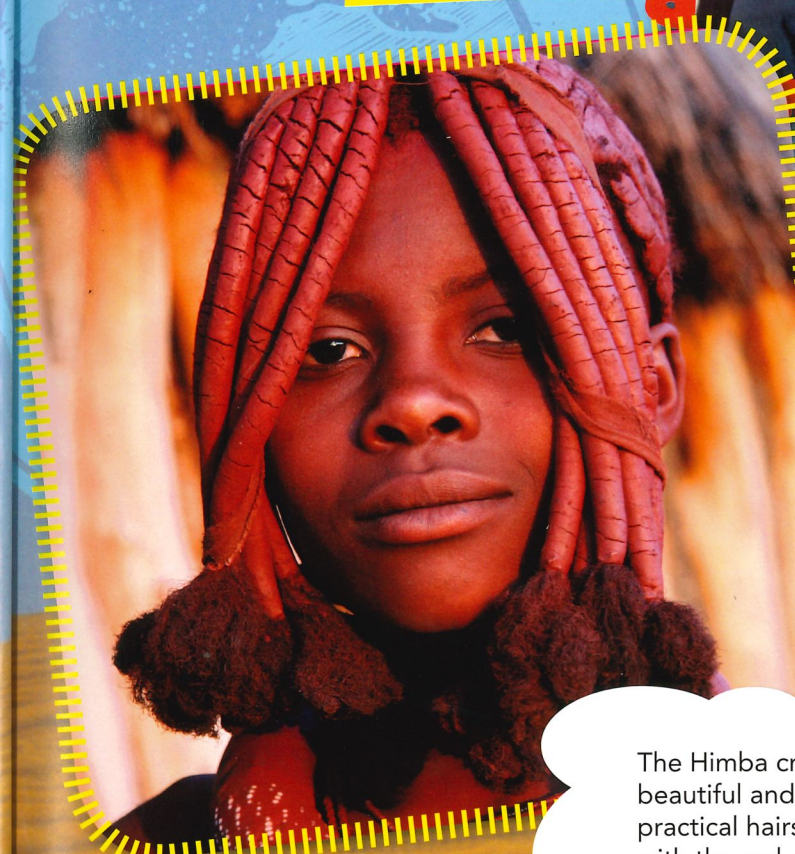
Clothes in the Sun

People in the desert regions of North Africa know how important it is to wear cooling clothes in the hot sun. Tight clothing would be far too hot and sweaty to wear, but long flowing robes let air circulate around, and protect the whole body from the sun.

Traditionally, North African people wear long, loose robes.

In hot desert regions, wind can whip up stinging sandstorms, and the hot sun can quickly burn skin. That's why people in the Middle East often wear a keffiyeh, a scarf that they can wrap around their head and face. It protects them when it's hot or windy, and keeps them warm in the evening, too.

The keffiyeh is made of woven cotton, and it is often coloured red and white.



This girl belongs to the Namibian Himba tribe in southwest Africa. Himba women and children smear their skin, clothes and hair with a mixture of ground-up red rock and butter. This paste acts as a natural sun cream and it keeps insects away.

The Himba create beautiful and practical hairstyles with the red paste.

Colourful Clothes



The colour of clothes is sometimes important. The Masai tribe in Kenya wear red clothing because they believe that red is the colour of bravery and that it scares away lions. The bright colour makes it easier for the Masai to see each other from far away on the wide African plains where they live.

The Masai robes, known as shúkà, can be wrapped around the body in many different ways.

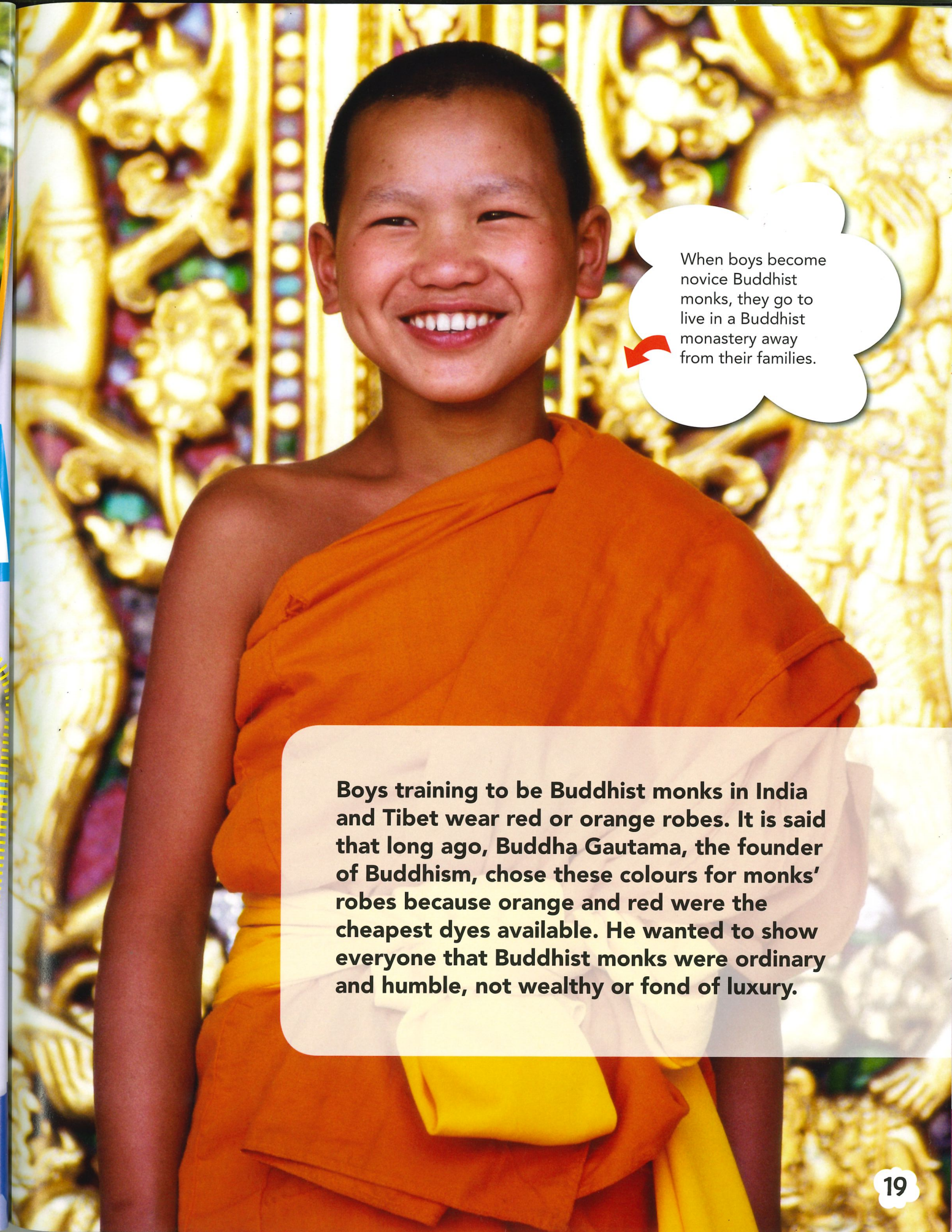
People sometimes wear colours that show where they come from, or to support a local sports team. This Brazilian boy is wearing green and yellow, two of the colours on the national flag of Brazil. The national sports teams of Brazil usually wear yellow and green kit, too.



This Masai girl is wearing a neck plate made of colourful wooden beads.



The colour green on the Brazilian flag represents rainforests and the yellow represents gold.



When boys become novice Buddhist monks, they go to live in a Buddhist monastery away from their families.

Boys training to be Buddhist monks in India and Tibet wear red or orange robes. It is said that long ago, Buddha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism, chose these colours for monks' robes because orange and red were the cheapest dyes available. He wanted to show everyone that Buddhist monks were ordinary and humble, not wealthy or fond of luxury.

Fantastic Hats

Hats sometimes give us information about the people who wear them. This girl is from the Hmong tribe in the far north of Thailand. She is wearing her colourful beaded hat for a New Year festival. According to an ancient Hmong story, evil spirits are confused and scared away by complicated patterns and beads on clothing so hats like this are a good defence!



There are lots of different tribes in northern Thailand, and each tribe has its own hat style.

Many people around the world decorate their hats with flowers for special occasions. In Ukraine, girls and unmarried women wear pretty wreaths of flowers called vinoks. In the past, young women used to place their vinoks into a river with a candle on top. Young men would jump into the water to catch the vinok of the girl they loved.



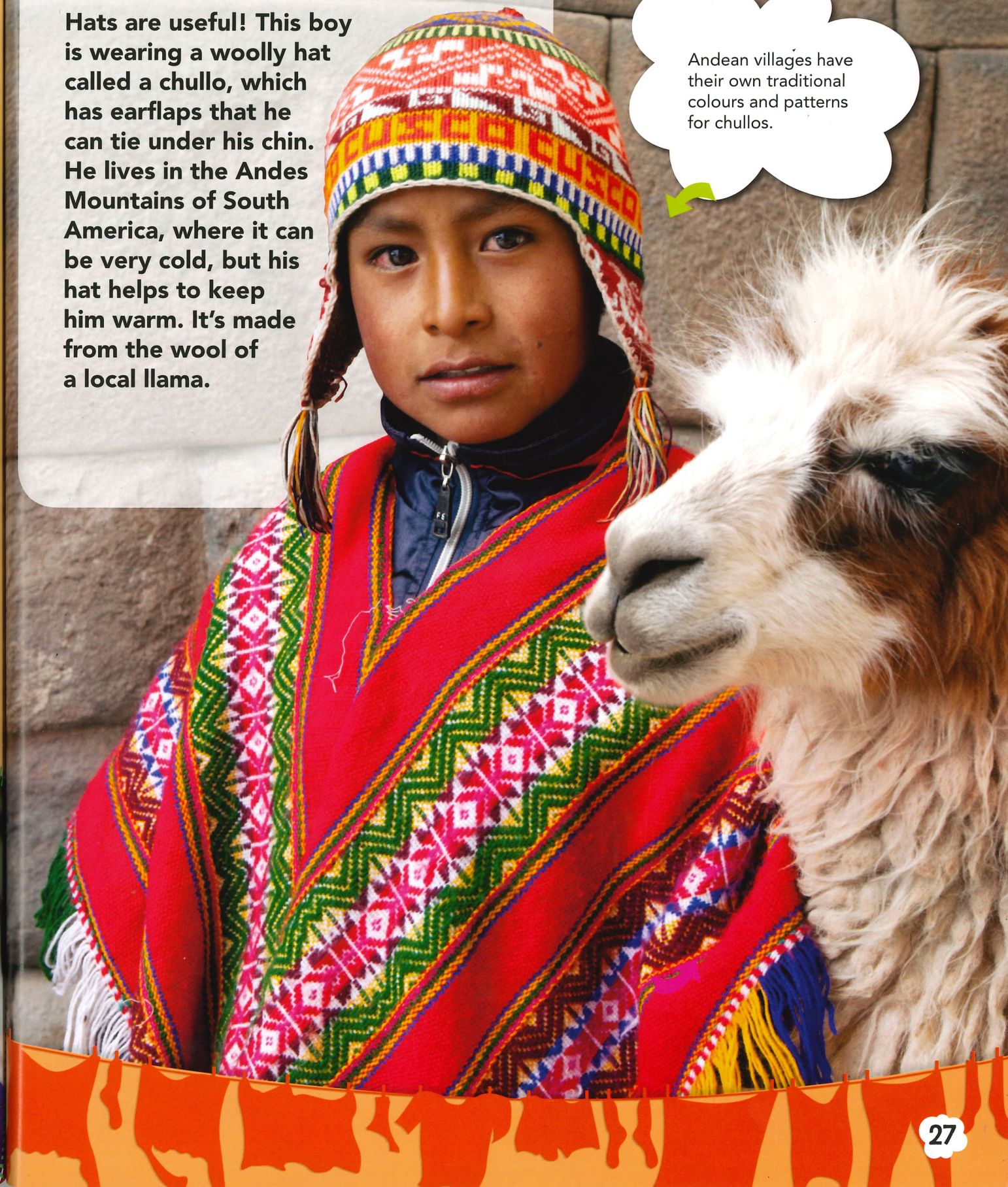
A Ukrainian vinok might be decorated with pretty ribbons as well as flowers.

This Romanian boy is wearing a traditional hat to a wedding. The flower on his hat is made from small pieces of fabric.



Hats are useful! This boy is wearing a woolly hat called a chullo, which has earflaps that he can tie under his chin. He lives in the Andes Mountains of South America, where it can be very cold, but his hat helps to keep him warm. It's made from the wool of a local llama.

Andean villages have their own traditional colours and patterns for chullos.



All Kinds of Jewellery

Some types of jewellery are made from natural materials, such as grass or wood. In Kenya, girls from the Pokot tribe wear necklaces woven from thick grasses, which are decorated with wooden beads and buttons. In Ethiopia, girls from the Mursi tribe wear decorated wooden discs in their ears.

This Pokot girl's necklace has been rubbed with animal fat and red rock dust to give it a bright colour.

The disc in this Mursi girl's ear doesn't fall out because her skin is stretched around it.

Women from the Kayan tribe in Burma and Thailand sometimes wear long metal neck rings. Girls start wearing them from the age of five or six. They can choose to take the neck rings off when they reach 15, but many women leave them on for the rest of their lives.

The Kayan neck rings are actually one single metal coil that wraps around their neck many times.

The gold headdress worn by this Limbu girl is called a sesephung. It is decorated with a moon made of red coral.

This girl is one of the Limbu people of eastern Nepal and Tibet. Limbu women are famous for their fine jewellery, made from gold, silver, coral and glass. The jewellery is designed to represent the natural world, such as the sun and moon, leaves and flower buds.