

Before reading.



- What's the origin of Wellington boots?
- When can you wear them?

The Wellington boot

The Wellington boot is a waterproof rubber boot that covers the knee. It was named after the First Duke of Wellington, Arthur Wellesley, also known as "The Iron Duke". It is also known a welly, a wellie or a gumboot. This boot was fashionable among the British aristocracy in the early 19th century.

The first Duke of Wellington instructed his shoemaker, Hoby of St. James Street, London, to modify the 18th century Hessian boot. The resulting new boot designed in soft calf skin leather had the trim removed and was cut closer around the leg. It was hard wearing for battle, yet comfortable for the evening. The Iron Duke didn't know what he had started. The boot was called the Wellington and has been ever since.



Activity 8

Complete with the correct information.

1. The word Wellington comes from _____.
2. These are waterproof rubber boots that cover the _____.
3. Thanks to the invention of _____, farmers can wear Wellington boots when they work on harvesting food.
4. Wellingtons were fashionable among the _____ in the _____ century.
5. Arthur Wellesley was also known as the _____.