

Embroidery Thread

Silk embroidery thread had a beautiful shine and was very durable. It was also colorfast, so the color would not fade over time.

The cost of silk thread eventually became too expensive for most Métis women to afford and most switched over to a cotton embroidery thread. This thread is much thicker, not colorfast, and not of the same quality, however it was affordable.

Rayon embroidery thread was introduced in 1924. While being of higher quality than cotton, it was still not of the same quality as silk.



McCord Stuart Museum

North Island Métis (NIMA) publishes a monthly newsletter.

Go to NIMA's website (www.nimetus.com/newsletters) to read current and past newsletters.

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NORTH ISLAND MÉTIS

**A124 - 740 ROBRON
ROAD
CAMPBELL RIVER, BC
V9W 6J7**



**NORTH ISLAND
MÉTIS**

**Métis
Embroidery**



History of Métis Embroidery

Métis students, in residential and boarding schools, learned silk embroidery from the Roman Catholic nuns. The nuns would have students embroider small items that they would sell, to raise money for the school.

After leaving school, Métis women continued to embroider and sell items to trading posts to bring in extra income for their families. Embroidery would have been used anywhere that beadwork was also seen, with a similar floral pattern.

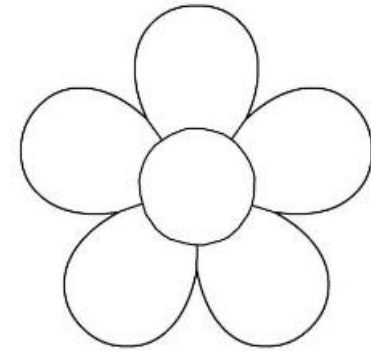
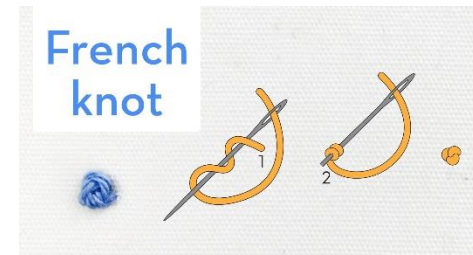
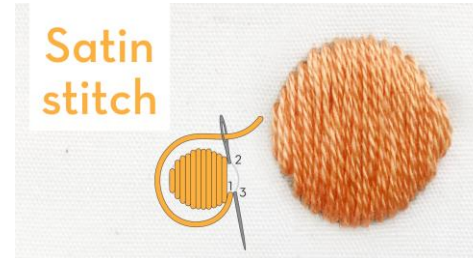
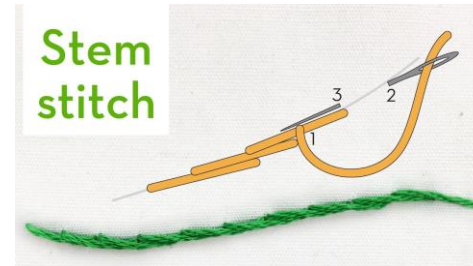
Embroidery was practiced by many communities, however two main styles of embroidery emerged. They are known as the Lake Winnipeg Small Flower Style (left photo) and the Norway House Style (right photo).

Images from University of Manitoba



Embroidery Stitches

These are a few of the most common stitches the Métis would have used (<https://penguinandfish.com/>):



Getting Started

- Thick felt
- Paper
- Pen
- Embroidery thread
- Embroidery needle
- Scissors

You can use this Prairie Rose (five-petal flower) as a template to trace onto another piece of paper to get started.

Check out our YouTube page for a step-by-step tutorial @northislandmetis.