

The First Sneakers

WORD LIST

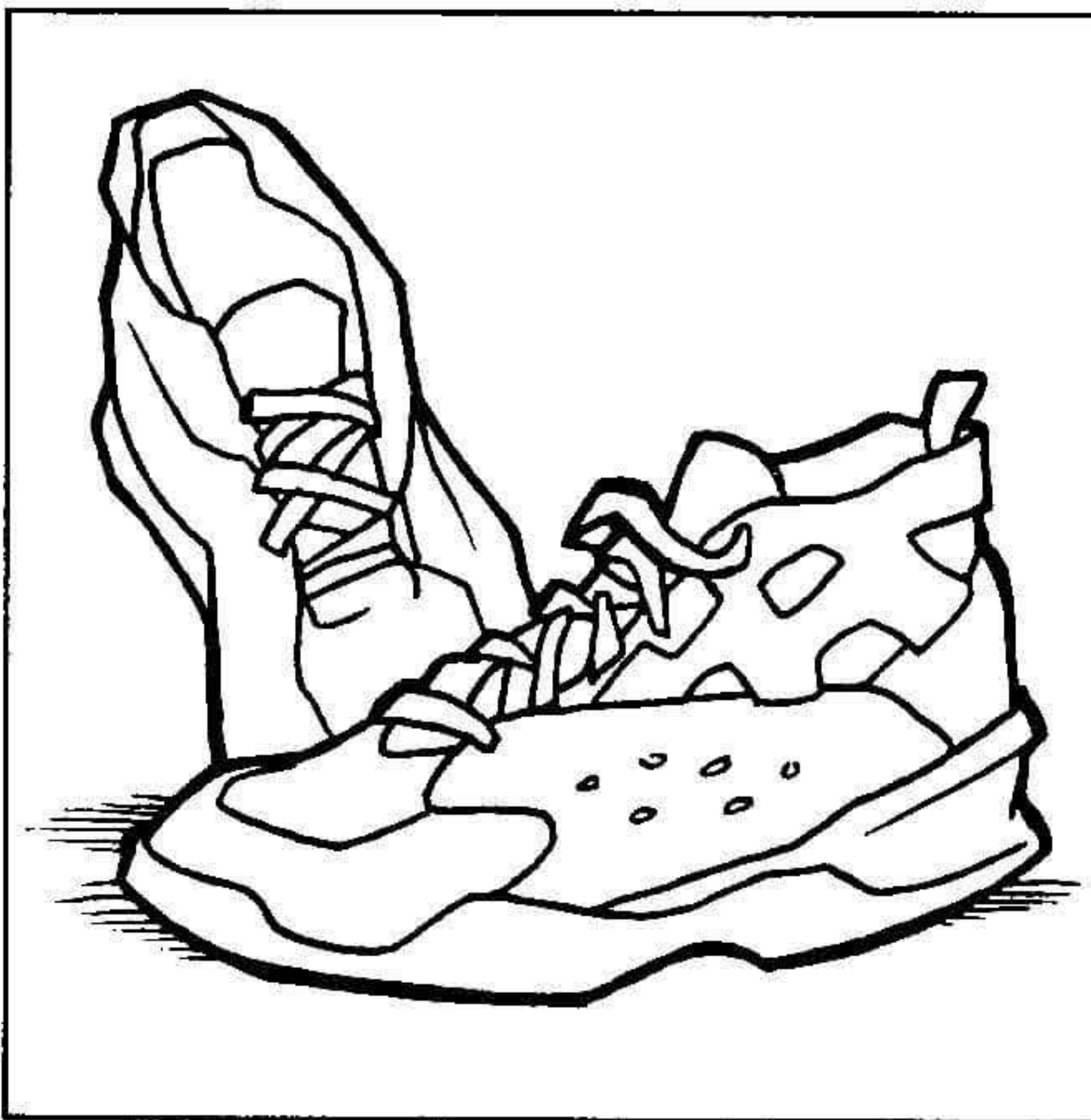
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Shoes with canvas tops and rubber soles used to be called sneakers. Now we call them “athletic shoes.” Some people say the first sneakers were made in Brazil. The Indians who lived in the jungle knew about the rubber trees there before the rest of the world did.

Sneakers were first made in America about 100 years ago. They were made for tennis players.

The fancy “athletic shoes” we wear now were first made in 1968. They were made for the athletes in the Olympic Games in Mexico City. Everyone liked them very much. Then there were only two companies that made the shoes. Now there are many others.

We used to think that these shoes were just for sports. Sometimes famous people think it is fun to wear them with dress-up clothes. One movie star even wore them with her wedding dress. We have come a long way since the first sneakers were invented!



The Indians would stick their bare feet into the sap of the rubber tree. When it got hard, they had rubber shoes. After people from other parts of the world heard about the rubber, they began to make things from it.