

CORN HUSK DOLLS

This activity will show you how to use corn husks, a common item that today we often throw away, to make a toy. Corn was grown at Kingsley Plantation, and while it was used for food, other parts of the plant were useful too! Remember that the fun does not only come from playing with the toy, but also from the opportunity to use your imagination while making it.

Corn husks can be purchased at local craft stores, though it would be less expensive to contact your local grocery store's produce department and ask them to hold the husks during the appropriate season. Once you take the husks home, lay them out to dry in the sun. Once dried they will keep indefinitely. Remember to soak the corn husks for at least 20 minutes before craft use.

Step 1: Select 6 strips and lay them flat in a stack. Tie a string tightly around one end of the stack.

Step 2: Fold 3 of the strips over the tied section and down so that the ends meet again. Tie a string one inch from the folded end. Your doll now has a head!

Later you can add hair by glueing yarn or corn silk to the doll's head.

Step 3: Choose 2 husks and roll them lengthwise. These will be the arms for your doll. Tie a string at each end of the roll. Insert the roll between the skirt of the doll.

Step 4: Take another piece of string and loop around the back of the doll's neck, across the chest, and then tie behind her back. This will keep the arms secure.

Step 5: If you would like to have a doll in pants, simply divide doll's skirt in two and tie at the "ankles."

Step 6: Finish decorating your doll. Add hair, make a face by drawing eyes, nose, and a mouth, or use bits of cloth and ribbon to dress up your doll. Use your creativity- this is a one of a kind toy!



Ideas for this project taken from:

Lauri Carlson, *Eco.Art!* (Charlotte, Vermont: Williamson Publishing, 1993).
and <http://www.teachersfirst.com/summer/cornhusk.htm>