



CORN HUSK DOLLS

HOW TO

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

String, Twine or Yarn

Scissors

Bowl of Warm Water

9-12 piece Cornhusk (green or dried)

*** The corn husk you use to construct your doll can be either green or dried. Green is most traditional, and can be purchased from any craft store, or you can peel it from the corn cob yourself. If you use dried husks, you can purchase them at many grocery stores or craft stores. Please note that if you use dried husks, they must soak in hot water to become pliable enough to use.*



1. Take 2 cornhusks and arrange them as shown with the wider ends toward the top.



2. Insert a small bundle to cut string, yarn, or twine between these 2 husks with about 1" sticking out of the top.



3. Arrange 2 more husks as shown (at this stage you should have 4 husks total and a bundle of "hair")



4. Using a small piece of string, twine, or yarn bundle and tie the straight ends together tightly with the hair in the center. Trim around the straight edges with scissors if necessary.

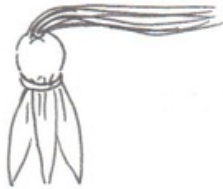


5. Turn the bundle upside down and pull the long ends of the husks down over the straight edges. The longer portion of the bundle of "hair" should now be exposed.



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6. Tie with a piece so string, yarn, or twine to create the head.



7. Take another husk, tear it in half if it is large or use too small husks. Flatten the husks and lay them with the straight ends opposite each other. Now, roll into a tight cylinder.



8. Tie off each end with a piece o string, yarn, or twine to create the doll's arms.



9. Slide the arms into the long portions of the husks hanging down just below the neck.



10. Tie with a piece of string, yarn, or twine as shown to form the waist.



11. Take a small husk and tear it into 1/2" strips. Take two strips and drape them around the arms and upper body in a criss-cross pattern to form the shoulders. * Note: you can ties these off with and additional string around the waist, or you can hold them in place as you create the skirt in the next step.



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12. Take 4 or 5 husks and start to arrange them around the waist in an over-lapping pattern to form the skirt of the doll.



13. Tie off the skirt with a piece of string, yarn, or twine as shown



14. If desired, you can make a boy doll by cutting the skirt in half and tying the two strings to form the legs as shown. You will use the string to tie off the legs at the knee and at the ankle of each leg.

15. Finish off the doll by styling the hair, use small pieces of husk to cover over any visible strings, or braided husk strips for belts or other decorative touches. Small bits of cloth can also be used to dress the doll.

Traditionally: a child may fashion clothing for the doll similar to what was worn by his or her own culture using what materials were available. Hair would be made from horse hair, animal fur, or pieces of corn silk. The doll would have no facial features.

Modern Ideas: children may decorate their doll with construction paper clothing, crayons, and markers. Household glue will work well to attach these items. Older children may want to use fabric scraps or additional pieces of corn husk to decorate their dolls. Colored yarn: can be bent in the shape of a smile or ears and glued in place to create instant facial features.

Color your husks: by soaking them in food coloring to make colored clothing for your doll. Soak husks for 30 minutes in a large bowl of warm water and several drops of food coloring in the desired shade. To make vibrant browns, soak husks in a large bowl of coffee or tea. Watercolor paints also work well.

Make shoes: by dipping the feet of your doll into a small bowl of acrylic paint. Allow to air dry and repeat if necessary.

Use small doll clothes: to dress your doll.

Sequins, Buttons, & Glitter: and other craft supplies can be glued to the doll to make jewelry, eyes, colored clothing and more. A bottle cap makes a great hat.

Insert a pipe cleaner: into the back of your doll to put it on display, or to use to hang it on the wall.