

Corn Husk Doll

The pioneers had to improvise for all of their needs, including toys for the children to keep them occupied. Remember that the objective is not making the doll, but showing people how to make the doll in order to stop them long enough to tell the pioneer message we want to give. You can weave the history story around the making of the doll.

Materials needed:

- **Cornhusks (dried)- May be purchased in a bag from craft store if need be.
- **Water in a large bowl or bucket

- **Scissors
- **String

Directions: (Soak the cornhusks in water until they are soft and pliable before you begin)

1. Arrange four cornhusks as shown.



2. Tie the straight ends together with string.



3. Trim and round the straight edges.



4. Turn upside down and pull the long ends of husks down over the trimmed edges



5. Tie with string to form head.



6. Take another husk, flatten it, and roll into a tight cylinder.



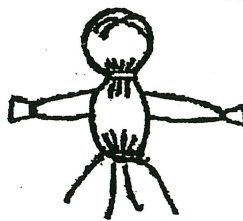
7. Tie each end with string.
This forms the dolls "arms."



8. Fit the arms inside of the long husks, just below the "neck."



9. Tie with string, as shown, to form waist.



10. Drape a husk around the arms and upper body in a criss-cross pattern to form "shoulders."



11. Take 4 or 5 husks, straight edges together, and arrange around "waist." These form a "skirt."



12. Tie these with string.



13. If you want legs, tie with small strips of husk as shown. Finish off by tying small strips of husk around the neck and waist to hide the string. Small scraps of cloth may be used to make a "shirt" for a boy or "dress" for a girl doll.

