

Make Your Own Cornshuck Doll

Without stores or money to buy toys, many children in Appalachia used scrap materials from their homes, or things they found in nature. Nearly every family grew and ate corn, and the leftover husks, or shucks as they're known in Appalachia, were a great material for toy-making! To this day, children still enjoy playing with these simple dolls made from dried cornshucks. Find packages of dried shucks in the spice or ethnic aisle of your grocery store.

Materials:

- Dried corn husks
- Yarn or raffia
- Paper towel
- Buttons
- Scissors
- Glue

Instructions:

1. Soak the husks in water for 30 minutes, and then shake extra water off.



2. Lay 2 or 3 husks in a stack. Fold over and tie with string about 1" from top. This will be the head.



3. Cut a single husk to about 4" or 5" long. Roll lengthwise to make arms.



4. Position arms below knot at neck, between equal portions of husks. Tie waist with string.



5. Lay 4 to 5 husks upside down, around the waist of the doll (be sure to put some in back!)



6. Wrap a long string tightly several times around the waist and tie with square knot. Flip shucks down. This will make the skirt.



7. You can create legs by cutting up the middle of the skirt and tying off at ankles.
8. To make hair, glue yarn to the head. Use shucks, felt, or fabric to make clothes for doll and glue or tie on.