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Make a Corn Doll

Native American girls from many parts of the country loved to play with cornhusk dolls. Sometimes called harvest figures, they represented the corn spirit that ensured a plentiful harvest. They are easy to make. To make one yourself, follow these directions.

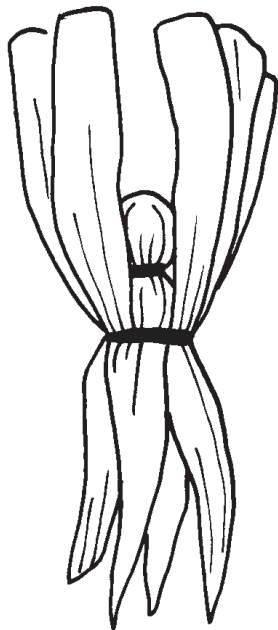
Materials:

- fresh or dried cornhusks
- water
- string
- soft cotton

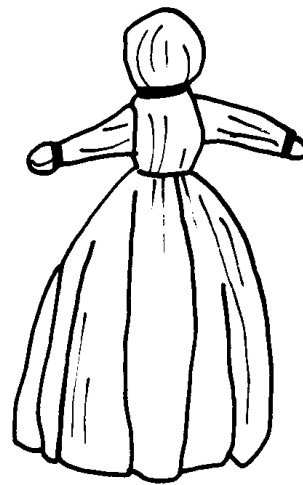
Directions:

1. If you are using dried husks, soak them in the water to soften them.
2. Place cotton in the center of a piece of husk, and tie it down to make the head.
3. Make arms by rolling one piece of husk and tying it near the ends for hands. Slide the arms through the husk under the head.
4. Tie around the husk with the string to make the waist.
5. Arrange five or six husks around the waist and tie them in place. Carefully fold them down to make a skirt. Cut the skirt straight across the bottom for a girl doll. Divide the skirt in two and tie each half at the ankles for a boy doll.
6. Let the husks dry completely. The doll is ready!

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Make a “Wooden” Mask

The natives of the Northwest Coast are master wood-carvers. Everything is carved from the wood of the cedar tree with extremely fine craftsmanship. Some of the most interesting pieces of wood carvings are the masks which were used in ceremonial dancing and, of course, the totem poles. In the masks and totem poles the effigies of animals are used.

One of the most popular designs is the highly stylized face of a beaver. Use the pattern below to make a beaver mask for yourself. Use colored construction paper. Enlarge the pattern if you need to. To make layers of different colors, trace the patterns of individual parts such as the teeth, eyes, or nose, and transfer them onto construction paper of contrasting colors. Cut them out and glue them into place on the mask.

