

	Old Time Crafts and Cooks	
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Corn Husk Doll

Supplies Needed:

- Five pieces of dried corn husks
- Container with Water (to pre-soak the husks)
- Scissors
- String

You can purchase ready-to-use husks that will already be dried out, but if you are peeling the husks from fresh corn, you will need a few days to dry them before you start your craft. Once you peel your husks off the corn, lay them flat on a piece of newspaper and leave them to dry for about three days.

History:

Do you have a favourite doll or action figure? In the late 1800s, you could go into a store and buy a doll made with porcelain or ceramics, but they were only used for display and not for play. A lot of dolls that were used for play would be made from extra materials lying around the house, like rags, extra fabric, or even dried corn husks. An example of an Indigenous toy is a corn husk doll. Indigenous peoples lived off the land, using nature to create tools and shelter, and even toys. These dolls usually did not have a face since Indigenous makers believed giving it a face would make it too similar to the likeness of a human being, and the maker would then have the responsibility of caring for it. You would also need to be in a positive state of mind while making the doll since your good intentions will be imprinted on it. Every time you handle it afterwards, you will remember that good energy and the fun in making your very own doll.

How To:

For this craft you will need five pieces of dried corn husk, string, and a pair of scissors. Before we get started, you will need to soak the corn husks in water for at least an hour to make them soft and bendable.

1. Line up four of the corn husks on top of each other with the pointy end of the husks facing the same direction. Tightly tie the husks together about 3cm from the points.
2. Holding the untied ends, take two husks in each hand and spread them back and around, folding them over the tied end. Tie the husks again about 3cm from the top. This step creates the doll's head.

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3. To make the arms, lie your doll down and open the top two husks away from the bottom two. Lie another piece of husk between the flaps horizontal underneath the head. Squish the long husks back together, and tie them underneath the arms. You can trim the arms and the length of the doll's dress if needed. Now your doll is complete!
4. If you want your doll to have legs, use the scissors to cut from the bottom up towards the arms, and secure them with string.
5. You can also use extra husks to make hair, clothing, etc. - decorate your doll anyway you like!

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