



## Activity: Making Corn Husk Dolls

### Suggested Grades

K-6

### Overview

Corn was an important crop for Oklahoma Indians, both as a food source and for ceremonial purposes. Children also made use of the husks of the corn to make dolls.

### Objectives

Students will learn that food can be used in more ways than just as nutrition. It can be used in art. This activity is designed to engage students in a creative way.

### Materials Needed

- ▶ string
- ▶ buckets of water
- ▶ copies of instructions
- ▶ scissors
- ▶ bags of cornhusks

### Time Needed

One fifty-minute class period

### Instructions

*Corn husks can be purchased in bags of sixty or more at any craft or grocery store.*

1. Before beginning, soak cornhusks in a bucket of water until they are soft and pliable.
2. Take four cornhusks and arrange them as shown.
3. Using a small piece of string, tie the straight ends together tightly.
4. Trim the round edges with scissors.
5. Turn the husks upside down and pull the long ends of the husks down over the trimmed edges.
6. Tie it with string to form the head.
7. Take another husk, flatten it and roll it into a tight cylinder.
8. Tie each end with string. This forms the doll's arms.
9. Fit the arms inside of the long husks, just below the neck.
10. Tie with string, as shown, to form a waist.
11. Drape a husk around the arms and upper body in a criss-cross pattern to form shoulders.
12. Take four or five husks, straight edges together, and arrange them around the waist. These form a skirt for the doll. Tie the husks to the doll's waist with a short string.
13. If desired, follow the diagram to form legs for the doll. Tie the legs with small strips of husks as indicated. Finish off the doll by tying small strips of husk around the neck and waist to hide the string. Small scraps of cloth may be used to dress the doll.

