

Heritage Crafts Corn Husk Doll

Lesson 1: Preparing Your Corn Husks

Please note: all craft projects should be supervised by an adult and all safety cautions given on the products must be followed.

Supplies:

- 2 packages of corn husks (You can purchase these from any store that carries Hispanic/Mexican food.)
- Dye in an assortment of colors (We found ours in the craft store.)
- Pan for dyeing
- An old saucepan for preparing the dye
- Gloves

Boil 3 cups of water. While the water is started, get out the corn husks and separate them so they are not stuck together. Place them in a disposable metal pan.



Once the water boils, pour the dye into the water. Mix the dye so it dissolves.



Pour the dye over the corn husks and let them sit until you have the desired color (anywhere from 20 minutes to 45 minutes).



Squeeze the excess dye and liquid from the corn husks (be sure to use gloves!) and place the corn husks in the sun to dry. This can be done inside or outside, but if you do it inside, you'll want to protect the floor from the dye, which will stain.



Repeat these steps with each color that you choose for your dolls. The drying can take some time, but be sure the corn husks are dry. They can mold if you put them away too early.

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Lesson 2: The Body of Your Corn Husk Doll

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Supplies:

- Plain corn husks
- Dyed corn husks
- Waxed dental floss
- Pipe cleaner
- Scissors

You will need about 10–15 plain corn husks for the body. Place the plain corn husks in water for about 5–10 minutes. This softens them and makes them pliable enough to work with.

Take them out of the water and squeeze out excess liquid.



Take a corn husk and fold over into thirds lengthwise.



Roll up into a ball starting from the smaller side.



Place this roll into another corn husk about one-third of the way toward the smaller end.



Wrap the rolled piece into the corn husk. Fold over the top and twist.



Wrap a piece of waxed floss around the bottom. This is the head! Set it aside.



Take a pipe cleaner and cut it in half. Take small piece of corn husk. Wrap the pipe cleaner in the corn husk.



Wrap the ends of the corn husk and tie at both ends and the center with waxed floss.



If you would like colored sleeves, wrap this piece with the color of your choosing.



Place arms in the center part of the corn husk with the head.



Tie off the bottom of the arm piece with waxed floss and make a crisscross pattern across the chest.



Take small pieces of corn husk and crisscross the chest area. Repeat twice. Tie the bottom with floss tightly.



Taking larger pieces of the corn husk, wrap them around the arms and chest. Do this for several layers.



Take floss, wrap tightly, and tie under the arms again. Cut off the excess around the arms.



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Lesson 3: Dressing Your Doll

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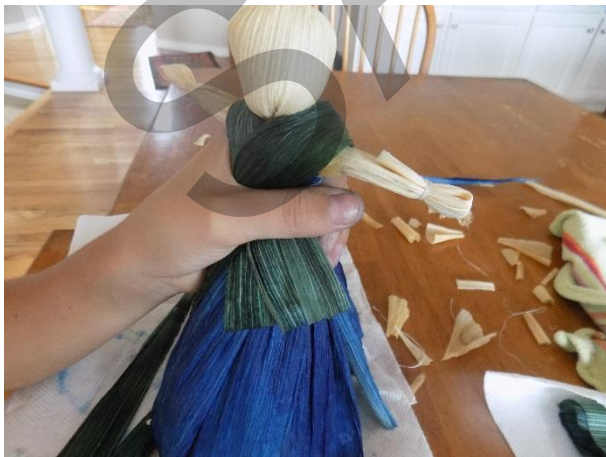
Supplies:

- Colored corn husks
- Waxed floss

Wrap 2–3 colored corn husks around the waist of the doll. Using waxed floss, wrap and tie in knot to secure dress.



Take two small pieces of colored corn husk and make them cross over the shoulders to make the bodice. Secure with waxed floss.



Taking a small piece of colored corn husk, make a belt to cover floss and tie the piece of corn husk.



Take small scraps of colored corn husk and tie the ends of the sleeves.

The bottom of your corn husk doll should be full enough to stand without assistance. If it falls to one side, you can trim the bottom to make it more even.



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Lesson 4: Accessories

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Supplies:

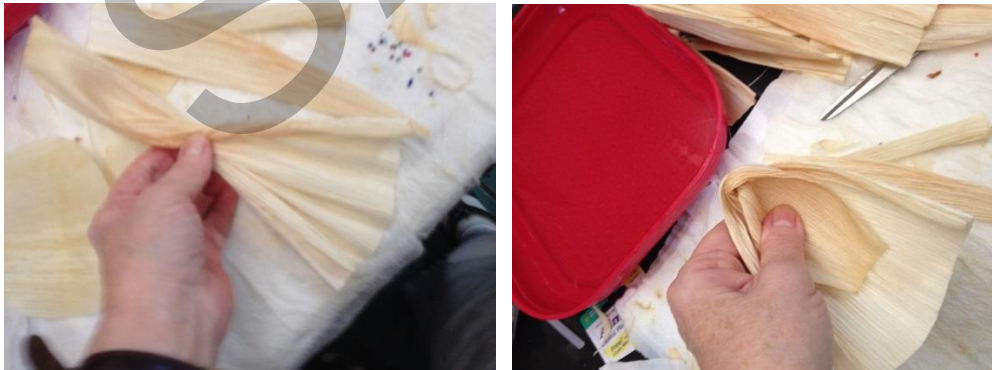
- Fiber for hair
- Small beads
- Colored corn husk for bonnet
- Small flowers
- Any other miniature item you want to use
- Hot glue gun

For Bonnet:

Take a large piece of corn husk and fold the largest end up. Cut a semicircle.



Take another piece and twist, then tuck inside.



Hot glue the semi circle piece into the twisted bonnet. Glue onto head of doll.



For Hair: Take fiber (we used sheep's wool) and place on head of the doll for hair. Experiment to find which type of fiber or material that you like.



You can then use little flowers, small beads, or anything you can imagine to embellish your doll. Use your imagination; the possibilities are limitless!