

Yarn Doll

In early Kansas, toys were often simple and homemade. Common toys included marbles, jacks, yo-yos, spin tops, etc.



Two young girls play with their dolls outside a frame building in Greeley County, Kansas, 1916.

These toys could be made from readily available materials such as wood, stone, pottery, and fabric.

Dolls were another popular toy because they could be made from scraps of yarn, thread, fabric or other materials on hand like corn husks.

Yarn Doll

Step #1: Body Part 1

1. Choose your yarn. Select a piece cardstock or cardboard of your choice.
2. Wrap yarn vertically around the cardstock or cardboard.
3. Remove yarn from card. Use a piece of yarn to tie a knot 1 in from the top.



Step #2: Arms

1. Choose a yarn for the arms.
2. Wrap yarn horizontally around the piece of cardboard/cardstock.
3. Open the loop of the body into two equal parts.
4. Place the arm yarn through the body loop.
5. Tie yarn around the body below the arms and at the ends of each arm.
6. Cut the ends of the arm loops.



Step #3: Body Part 2

1. Cut the bottom of the body yarn loop.
2. To create a skirt, leave the yarn as is.
3. To create pants, split the body yarn into two and tie yarn around the bottom of each part.



Step #4: Decorate

1. Use yarn to decorate the doll as you please.

