



Make a traditional yarn dolly

Families in Auchindrain would not have had a lot of money to spend on things like toys. Children would have learnt how to make their own. If you would like to try to make a yarn dolly, follow these simple instructions.



Materials



Yarn (any colour you like), a piece of card or a paperback book to wrap around, scissors

Here is what you do

Decide how tall you want the doll to be. Cut out a piece of cardboard that is roughly the same height. You could use a paperback book or CD case instead if you want.



Loop yarn once around the cardboard lengthwise. Be sure to use a soft yarn, as scratchy yarn won't be as huggable.



Tie a knot at the top to secure it. Don't cut the yarn just yet.



Wrap the yarn around the cardboard. Keep wrapping the yarn around the cardboard until you have at least 100 loops for a good doll. Remember, the more times you wrap it, the thicker your doll will be. On your last loop, tie it to a previous loop to secure it.

Slide a piece of string between the loops and the cardboard. Slide it up to the top of the cardboard and tie a tight knot. This will gather all of the strings together in the center of the cardboard. For a pretty bow, if your dolly is going to be a girl, you can use a different color piece of yarn.



Slide the strings off the cardboard. Tie a piece of string in a tight knot around where you'd like the neck of the doll to be. Don't worry if it ends up being too high or too low; you can adjust it later.



Pull out a few loops on each side to form the doll's arms. Tie a string tightly around the **middle** of the looped strings where you'd like the waist to be.



Tie the arms at the "wrists" and trim the looped yarn ends. For a different look, pleat the arms before tying them off.

Cut across the bottom of the body to make a "skirt" of yarn. (You can also leave the ends looped if you prefer the look.) Alternatively, you can make legs by splitting the middle into 2 parts from the waist down and tying them off like you did the arms; don't forget that you can pleat these as well.



Give your dolly a name and have fun with it!