

# LESSON PLAN: YARN DOLLS

Author: Maple Ridge Museum

Subject and Grade Level: Social Studies (Grade 2)

Objectives: Make history and historical activities and games more relevant. Understand how people in the past entertained themselves.

## Materials:

Yarn

A Piece of cardboard

Scissors

Ribbon (optional)

## For detailed instructions:

<https://www.thecrafttrain.com/braided-yarn-dolls/>

## Additional Notes:

## POSSIBLE OPENING QUESTIONS:

How do you entertain yourselves? What are your toys made out of? When do you think plastic was invented? What do you think people used before plastic?

## PROCEDURE/STEPS:

1. Have a discussion about how people used to entertain themselves. Include a little bit about the history of plastic. Explain that while dolls today are made out of plastic, they were often made out of materials like porcelain, glass or even yarn in the past.
2. Explain how to make yarn dolls.
3. Let the children make their dolls.
4. Conclude with a discussion about why people in the past would have entertained themselves this way.

## DISCUSSION AND REVIEW:

Discussion question ideas: Why do you think people used yarn to make dolls instead of things like porcelain?

## ASSESSMENT:

## ENRICHMENT:

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Before the invention of plastic, dolls could be made out of a variety of items including porcelain, glass and yarn.
- Yarn dolls have been made since the early 16th century in what is now the US and Canada.
- One of the reasons that yarn dolls were popular was because they were significantly cheaper than the other alternatives for doll materials.
- One of the other reasons that yarn dolls were popular was because yarn was one of the first industrialized products in North America and beyond that, many women in rural areas of North America would spin their own yarn from sheep's wool using a spinning wheel. This means that yarn was a common household item for the majority of the people.