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Traditional Countryside Crafts



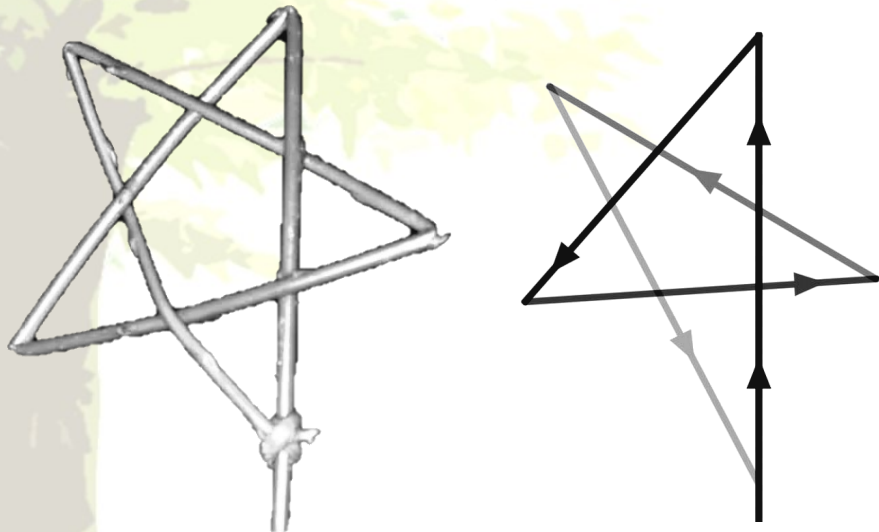
Willow Star

You will need:

Willow Length
String (if needed)

The Build:

- * You will need to bend your willow in to 4 equal sections
- * Use this guide to help you bend it into your star shape, ensure you under and overlap the star sides



- * Tie the end around the willow or using some sting

Top Tips:

Start from the thinnest end of the willow length

Keep the length of the willow, cut the thick end at an angle and plant in the ground, keep watered and watch your star regrow

Corn Doll

You will need:

5 Corn Husks
String, Wool or Thread

The Build:



1. Lay 4 corn husks on top of each other and tie together, close to the bottom.



2. Carefully bend over the husks, like you are peeling a banana.



3. Tie the husks together with your string to form the head.



4. Roll a husk into a tube and tie with string at each end.

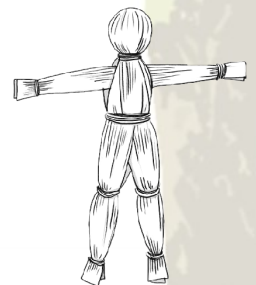


5. Separate the corn husks of the head and slide your tube between to create the arms.



6. Tie a piece of string around the waist.

6a. To make trousers instead of a skirt, split the skirt in 2 halves and tie additional string around each half to form a knee and again at the end.



Straw / Grass Dolls

You will need:

Straw or Grass
String, Wool or Thread
Warm Water

The Build:

- * Soak the straw in warm water until bendy and pliable



1. Take 5/6 lengths of straw or grass, fold in half and tie together with string.



2. Plait together 3 or 6 pieces of straw or grass to form the arms. Tie together at each end.



3. Part the straw and place the plait between.

4. Tie a piece of string around the waist.

4a. To create trousers split the straw in half and tie a piece of string to each end.



Top Tips:

Use more lengths of straw for a fuller doll
Experiment - there is no right or wrong

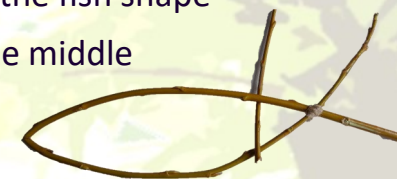
Willow Fish

You will need:

1x medium thick willow length
5-7x thin willow lengths
String

The Build:

- * Bend the medium piece of willow in half and tie together with a piece of string to form the fish shape
- * Place a thin length through the middle of the fish with the end on top and the main length underneath
- * Fold over, push the end through the middle and under the opposite side
- * Repeat the above until all the willow is used. Repeat with as many lengths as needed for your fish design



Top Tips:

If you don't have enough willow, weave string or wool through the fish

Make a fishing line out of a thick willow length and string - add a magnet to the end of the string and mouth of the fish

Willow Wreath

You will need:

Willow
Moss
Natural things to decorate
String or Ribbon

The Build:

- * Wrap the willow round into a circle. Twist it on to itself to secure. (The more layers and twists you add the easier it is to add your decoration)
- * If you are using evergreens to decorate, such as pine, conifer or holly, add some damp moss into the spaces between the willow. (This will help to keep it green longer)
- * Decorate as you wish by adding acorns, conkers, feathers, pine cones, elder cones etc. (You can secure these by threading string through the centre and then tying to the willow)
- * Add some string or ribbon to the top to hang

Top Tips:

Make mini versions as bracelets



Harvest Knot

You will need:

6 lengths of Straw or Grass
String, Wool or Thread
Warm Water

The Build:

- * Soak the straw in warm water until bendy and pliable
- * Tie all the lengths together about a third of the way up from the base
- * Create 2 plaits and tie with string at the end
- * Bend round in opposite directions to form a heart shape
- * Tie together, to secure to the straight central section



Top Tips:

Experiment with different weaving technics to create different patterns and shapes

Nettle Cordage

You will need:

Nettles (1m long)
Gloves
Secateurs

The Build:

- * Wearing gloves cut several lengths of nettles 1m long
- * Holding the base of the nettles remove all the leaves - take care not to tear the top layer of the stalk
- * Peel the outer layer of the stalk - this is what will be used to create your cordage
- * Use a hook, nail or tree branch to hook your length to at the half way point
- * Hold each end in each hand, between your thumb and forefinger
- * Roll the lengths once to the right, cross them over to the left
- * Repeat the above until you run out of material or have made the length of cordage required
- * Remove from the hook and tie a knot in the end
- * If you need to make your cordage longer, stop about 10cm from the end and twist in additional strips placing the thin end to the thick



Top Tips:

Use a blunt knife to help you peel the stalks
If used when wet/fresh the cordage will shrink,
leave to dry for a couple of hours before use

Willow Heart

You will need:

2 Lengths of Willow
String, Wool or Thread

The Build:

- * Tie together your two lengths of willow, about half way up
- * Bend down each length to make a heart shape
- * Tie to centre to make a heart shape



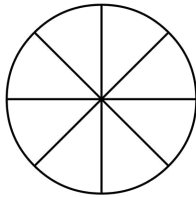
Mini Rope

You will need:

Wool - 7 lengths
(You could use 1 colour or different colours)
Cardboard
Pencil, Ruler, Scissors

The Build:

- * Measure 3 times around your wrist with your wool and cut 7 equal lengths
- * Tie the ends together in a small loop
- * On a piece of cardboard draw a circle about 10cm wide (its doesn't have to be exact) and cut it out
- * Use a ruler and pencil to draw 4 lines across the circle dividing it into 8 parts
- * Pierce a hole in the middle and cut a small slit on each line
- * Push the loop end of your wool through the middle, separate each length and hook onto each slit - you should have a slit left open
- * From the gap count 3 lengths - take the 3rd and place it in the gap, keep repeating moving in the same direction - you will see your bracelet start to form and come out of the hole
- * Once it is long enough to fit around your wrist, remove it from the cardboard and tie all the ends together in a knot
- * Cut off any excess wool



Tree Rope

You will need:

Coloured String - you will need 4 lengths each could be a different colour or 2x 2 lengths of contrasting colours
4 Stones or Twigs

The Build:

- * Tie all 4 pieces of string together at one end and hook onto a tree branch (you could create a loop if you wish)
- * On the bottom of each piece of string tie a twig or stone - this will weigh it down and keep the tension in the string
- * Stand opposite another person, holding a length of string in each hand
- * Each person swings one of their lengths to the other at the same time, continuing with alternative lengths until you run out of string
- * The pattern you make will change depending on how you swing and swop the string

Top Tips:

Do not use elastic or wool as this can stretch and distort your rope

