

Craft and Toy Routine

Here is a routine to assist you during the day.

History: The economic survival of most early families depended on thrift and industry. While local dry goods and variety stores offered items for home use, housewives endeavored to save money by making and reusing household items. Women and girls also enhanced clothing and linens with lacework, embroidery, and other decorative arts.

Housewives took apart worn clothing and tore it into strips for rags. Some rags were braided into rugs, tied into floor mops, or transformed into rag dolls. Women cut scraps of fabric into shapes, pieced them together and quilted them into coverlets. Small children received toys such as dolls from rags, old socks, wooden clothespins or cornhusks. Young men whittled scraps of wood into play objects for younger siblings.

Arrival of students at crafts

Welcome students and ask them to sit down. Exchange introductions.

Explain

- Students will be making two projects: a **Leavings Doll** and a **Button Spinner**.
- A farm family could not afford to let anything go to waste. Time and materials were used wisely.

Ask

- What does leavings means? *Leftovers or scraps*. Scraps of material were used to make crafts such as rag rugs and quilts. Sometimes women would let their children use leavings to make dolls or other toys.
- What does mend mean? *To repair*. Mending is an important skill so nothing goes to waste. Clothes could be mended and passed on to a younger family member.
- Would you go to bed at the same time in the winter and summer? (A farm family's life revolved around the seasons, daylight and weather)
- What are some time consuming chores that needed to be done in the summer?
Example: gardening and harvesting.
- What chores might be done before school? Examples: make the bed, empty chamber pots, bring in water, help dress siblings, let chickens out of the hen house, gather eggs, wash dishes, and pack lunches.
- What chores might be done after school? Examples: bring in wood, collect eggs, close the hen house, and supervise siblings.
- What chores would need to be done in the evening? Example: dishes, read, practice musical instruments, needlework.

Explain that children were a very important part of the farm team and even though they worked hard they also had fun playing.

Making a doll

1. Have each student pick a long piece of long fabric and a small square of fabric.
2. Give each student a large pattern and a piece of chalk
3. Show students how to use the pattern against the end of the material so only one edge needs to be cut.
4. Ask students to mark and cut their fabric.
5. Show students how to fold the large piece of material in thirds widthwise so that one edge overlaps the other. Then show them how to fold it in half lengthwise.
6. Show students how to tie a string around the dolls neck to create a head.
7. Show students how to roll the small piece of fabric into a tube shape. These are the arms.
8. Show students how to place the arms below the first piece of string. Tie a piece of string below the arms making sure the arms stay secure.
9. Ask each student to write their name on a piece of masking tape, and stick it to their doll. Have them use their real name if they are in historic family groups.
10. Ask students to put the doll in their pocket, their marble bag, or tuck it into their apron.

Making a button spinner

1. Explain that children did not have many toys, but one favorite toy was a button spinner. Native Americans used acorns to create a similar toy.
2. Pre-cut the string for the students. Measure the length of the string on the long measuring tape attached to the table.
3. Pass out string.
4. Show students how to thread the string through one hole and then back through the next.
5. Tie both ends of the string together.
6. Place thumbs through the string, wind and pull; the button will spin (this may take several tries). Encourage students to continue using the spinners until the triangle is rung.
7. When you hear the triangle, line up your students and walk them to the baking station.

Students are not allowed to go to the next station unless an adult walks them over.

End of the day clean up

- Please put all materials back on the table as they were when you arrived.
- Pick up any bits of string and material that have fallen on the floor and discard. Sweep the area as needed.
- We appreciate your help in keeping our facilities clean!