

Clothespin Doll



during the Civil War children and adults often did small crafts to keep themselves busy. One of these popular crafts was making a clothespin doll. From soldiers looking to entertain themselves in hospitals to children looking to create a new toy, clothespin dolls were a classic and simple craft for all ages.

Materials

- Piece of paper
- Pencil
- Marker
- Glue
- Ribbon
- Needle and thread
- Scissors
- Pipe cleaner
- Fabric scrap at least 4"x4"
- Chopstick
- Clothespin



1-2 hours



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Instructions

1. Gather together all the materials you will need for this activity.



2. Draw half of a dress on the edge of a folded piece of paper. Repeat, and then cut out your two dress shapes and unfold them.



3. Use your marker to carefully trace the dress shapes on your fabric. After you've finished tracing the dresses, cut them out.



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4. Now take your two dress shapes and line them up on top of each other and sew up the edges of the dress. Make sure not to sew up the end of the sleeves or the collar of the dress!



5. Gently turn your dress inside out. Be patient, as it may take a little time. To help turn the sleeves inside out, gently poke your chopstick into them until they are all the way inside out. Now your dress should look much nicer, with neat seams!



6. Tightly twist a pipe cleaner around the “neck” of the clothespin and raise the arms up above the doll’s head.



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7. Slide the dress onto your doll, starting at the bottom. When you get to the arms, carefully put them down and slide them into the sleeves. Fold over the ends of the pipe cleaner at the bottom of each sleeve so the end is tucked underneath the sleeve. You can also tie a ribbon around the waist of the dress for some extra flair!



8. Cut a small piece of pipe cleaner and tightly coil it up so it looks like hair in a bun. Tie a small piece of ribbon around the bun to define it and trim off any excess ribbon (**8a**). Put a little bit of glue on the head of your doll and stick on the hair (**8b**). Now it will have a stylish hairdo! Let the glue dry and then your doll is complete!

