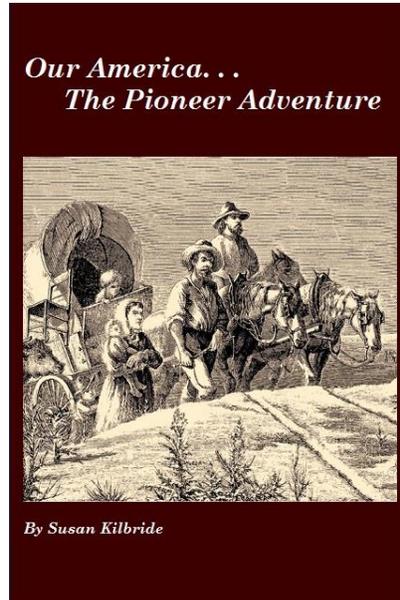


Activities to Accompany: *The Pioneer Adventure* By Susan Kilbride



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These activities are designed to accompany the book *The Pioneer Adventure*, but they can be used for any unit study on the pioneers.

The Pioneer Adventure

Join Finn and Ginny as they continue to search back in time to find their lost parents. After adventuring with the Pilgrims, surviving the horrors of King Philip's War, living through the Salem Witch Trials, and searching for their parents during the Revolutionary War, the twins now find themselves on a wagon train heading to Oregon. Is this the adventure where they will finally find their missing parents?

The *Our America* books are designed to teach the stories of United States history in such a fun way that the reader won't even realize that they're educational. *The Pioneer Adventure* is based on actual accounts written by the people who traveled West in the 1800s. Ages 9-13.

Susan Kilbride is a home educator who realized that the best way to teach history wasn't by using standard text books but by telling the stories of the people who lived it. For more information on Susan and her books, visit her website at: <http://funtasticunitstudies.com/>

The *Pioneer Adventure* is available at Amazon at the following link:

http://www.amazon.com/The-Pioneer-Adventure-America-Volume/dp/1499778376/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1404301768&sr=8-1&keywords=the+pioneer+adventure+kilbride

Praise for Books in the Our America Series

When I first informed my 10-year-old that I had a new book for her to read for school, she let out a sigh combined with a look like, "Oh, great! . . . That means something I won't enjoy." Little did she know that an exciting journey awaited her. She began reading and within the first chapter informed me that she already loved the book! She was taken away into a world of adventure seeking to discover a mystery. . . . Thank you, Susan Kilbride, for the fantastic opportunity to teach my children about their rich heritage and to keep them excited about learning more.

Tammy Wollner, author of Keeping His Way Pure

My 11-year-old son, who has no desire to learn from a textbook about the pilgrims and memorize boring dates, eagerly read The Pilgrim Adventure. A living book, The Pilgrim Adventure combines real facts with some fiction to make the subject more appealing.

Tina from Newbeehomeschooler.com

You cannot go wrong with an adventure with Finn and Ginny!

Richele McFarlin from Families.com

This series is great for kids who loved the Magic Tree House series but are now looking for books targeted to slightly older children. Written for upper elementary-aged kids, this book includes two likable main characters who love history.

Pamela from the Lavish Book Shelf

Susan knows what homeschoolers are looking for and delivers that in her books.

Heidi Johnson from Homeschool-how-to.com

Never mind the mind-numbing and biased textbooks to learn history. You and your children will learn more from reading Ms. Kilbride's books and be far more entertained as well.

Gail Nagasako, author of Homeschooling Why and How

I love how Finn and Ginny become a part of the story and participate in the unfolding of the pilgrims' experiences when they arrive at Plymouth. I found myself, while reading it, forgetting that it was also educational! An especially nice fact about this book is that the author obviously knows her facts on the Pilgrims and Mayflower. . . . She very effectively brings these people to life in an interesting way for the reader.

Joy from homeschoolliterature.com

Susan Kilbride, homeschool mother and author, has done it again! The Pilgrim Adventure is Susan's first book in her new Our America series, and it is a wonderful way to involve kids of all ages in learning about early America. . . . The storyline involves homeschooled twins, Finn and Ginny, in a search for their missing parents. This fantastic search lands the twins aboard the Mayflower and eventually the new land. Mystery and adventure keep your attention while historical facts are seamlessly woven into the story.

Jackie from Quaint Scribbles

Thank you Ms. Kilbride. This captivating book is a keeper to add to our early American time period.

Tina Robertson from New Beginnings

Materials Needed for This Unit

2 lbs. *lean* flank steak or round steak
1/2 cup soy sauce
1/2 cup Worcestershire sauce
1 teaspoon liquid smoke
2 tablespoons brown sugar
A large bowl
4 cups peeled, cored, and chopped apples
Sugar
Cookie sheet
Cornmeal
Pastry dough for a 2-crust pie
Corrugated cardboard
2 tablespoons lemon juice
Scissors
Pie pan
4 cups flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
Large mixing bowl
Corn starch
20 or more daisy-like flowers
1 or 2 cookie sheets
A piece of poster board or an file folder
Glue stick
Piece of large white paper
Pie pan
2 teaspoons black pepper
1 teaspoon garlic powder
2 teaspoons onion powder
1 teaspoon cayenne pepper or paprika
Tinfoil
An oven with racks
Spray cooking oil
1/8 cup lemon juice
Blender
Cinnamon
36 crackers
Yarn
Desk lamp or other movable lamp
2 tablespoons butter
Baking soda
4 teaspoons baking powder
4 tablespoons oil
Cream of tartar
Dutch Oven or casserole dish
Oven with 2 racks
Access to a copier
Yarn or string
Piece of Black construction paper
Piece of 8.5 x 11 white paper

Activity 1: Dried Food

Pioneers traveling on the Oregon Trail had to pack plenty of food for a four to six-month journey. One way of maximizing the amount of food they could pack on a trip was to dry it. Below are recipes for dried beef and dried apple leather:

Beef Jerky

2 lbs. <i>lean</i> flank steak or round steak	2 teaspoons black pepper
1/2 cup soy sauce	1 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 cup Worcestershire sauce	2 teaspoons onion powder
1 teaspoon liquid smoke	1 teaspoon cayenne pepper or paprika
2 tablespoons brown sugar	Aluminum foil (tin foil)
Oven with two racks	1 or 2 cookie sheets

Have your butcher cut the meat *with the grain* into very thin strips, about 1/16th of an inch thick. Go through the strips and trim off all of the fat. If you don't have a butcher, trim off the fat, place the meat in the freezer for 2-3 hours and then slice it yourself.

Next, mix together the rest of the ingredients. Place the beef strips in a large bowl and pour the mixture on top. Stir it around until most of the liquid has been soaked up onto the meat. Cover the bowl and place it in a refrigerator overnight (for at least 8 hours).

Take one of your oven racks and cover it with foil. This rack will be used to catch the drippings, so it will go below the rack that you are cooking the beef on. Take 1 or 2 cookie sheets and cover them with foil and place them on the foil-covered rack. This will also help catch the drippings. Place another oven rack that is *not* covered in foil above the first one.

Now, stir the beef one more time and lay the beef strips directly onto the top rack. Leave a little space between each piece. Set your oven at 165-175°F. Bake for 3-6 hours, turning the meat over every two hours until done. Check the meat every hour to make sure that it doesn't overcook.

Since we don't live in pioneer times, there is no need to risk food poisoning by leaving your jerky out of the refrigerator after it is done. So, just to be safe, store it in a refrigerator when you are finished.

Apple Fruit Leather

4 cups peeled, cored, and chopped apples	Spray cooking oil
Sugar to taste	1/8 cup lemon juice

Preheat the oven at 185° F. If your oven can't go that low, put it on its lowest setting. Place the apples, sugar, and lemon juice in a saucepan and heat until soft, stirring frequently. Transfer the mixture to a blender and puree until smooth. Spray a cookie sheet with spray cooking oil and spread the apple mixture on it so that it is about 1/4-inch thick. It is important to spread the mixture evenly (especially along the edges) so that all parts of it dry at the same rate. Be careful that it is not too thin or you might end up with fruit chips instead of fruit leather! Place the cookie sheet in the oven on a middle rack for 3-6 hours. Start checking to make sure it doesn't overcook after two hours. The fruit leather is done when it is no longer sticky and can be easily peeled away from the cookie sheet. Don't leave it in the oven too long or you will end up with fruit chips instead of fruit leather. Remove from the oven and let it cool. Cut the leather into strips. Enjoy!

Cold Flour

Just like modern-day travelers have guidebooks to help them along the way, so did the emigrants on the Oregon Trail. One of these books, *The Prairie Traveler* by Randolph B. Marcy, suggests that the emigrants make “cold flour” as a nutritious drink. It was made by taking parched corn and pounding it into meal, and then adding a bit of cinnamon and sugar to it. The resulting mixture was added to water to make a drink. You can make it yourself by adding cornmeal, cinnamon, and sugar to a glass of water and stirring.

Activity 2: Baked Goods

Mock Apple Pie

Pies were a favorite treat for the emigrants traveling west. Sometimes they would find berries to make pies with, or they could have used dried fruit that they brought with them. Many emigrants carried some form of citric acid or lemon juice which could be used to make a mock apple pie if no fruit was available.

Pastry dough for a 2-crust pie
2 cups sugar
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon cinnamon
Pie pan

36 crackers
1 3/4 cups water
1 1/2 teaspoons cream of tartar
2 tablespoons butter

Preheat the oven to 425° F. Place the bottom pastry in a 9-inch pie pan. Layer the crackers on top and dot them with the butter. Set the pie pan aside. Combine the remaining ingredients in a saucepan, bring them to a boil, and then simmer for 15 minutes. Let the mixture cool for 15 minutes and then pour it over the crackers. Take the top pastry and either completely cover the pie with it, poking vent holes in the top, or cut it into 3/4-inch strips and weave them into a lattice pattern over the top. Place in the preheated oven and cook for 25-30 minutes until golden brown.

Bannock

Most of the pioneers on the emigrant trail brought along “saleratus” (baking powder) with them and many made bread using baking powder. Bannock is a type of baking powder bread made on a campfire. Since bannock uses a lot of baking powder, it is better to use aluminum-free baking powder when you make it—so that it doesn’t taste like aluminum. If you can’t find it in the store, you can make aluminum-free baking powder by mixing 1 part baking soda, 2 parts cream of tartar, and 1 part corn starch.

4 cups flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups water

4 teaspoons baking powder
4 tablespoons oil

Mix everything but the water together then slowly add the water until it is the consistency of bread dough. Briefly knead the dough and then place it in an oiled Dutch oven

or casserole dish. Bake at 400° F until done (about 1/2-3/4 of an hour). Let it cool and tip it out of the dish. Serve with butter and honey.

Activity 3: Packing

The pioneers had to haul everything they needed for a four to six month journey. Unlike the Campbell family in *The Pioneer Adventure*, many emigrants only had one wagon to carry all of their belongings. See if you can figure out how to pack everything you would have needed for a five-month journey in the 1800s in a space the size of a wagon. Take some masking tape and mark out a square that is four feet by eleven feet on the floor. Then get together the items you would need to bring and try and pack them into that space. You can pack them up to three feet high (the height of the sides of the wagon). You can use pillowcases stuffed with clothes or empty boxes to represent items like bags of flour or boxes of other items. According to the Oregon Trail guide, *The Prairie Traveler*, the following food items were necessities on the trail (amounts are per person): “150 lbs. of flour, or its equivalent in hard bread; 25 lbs. of bacon or pork, and enough fresh beef to be driven on the hoof to make up the meat component of the ration; 15 lbs. of coffee, and 25 lbs. of sugar; also a quantity of saleratus or yeast powders for making bread, and salt and pepper” The author of the guide also suggests that the emigrants bring dried vegetables and antiscorbutics (items that prevent scurvy) such as citric acid. Don't forget to pack things like pots and pans, bedding, clothes, water barrels, and tools.

Wooden boxes were used to store things in. One emigrant described moving the boxes at night so that they could sleep in the wagon, while another emigrant describes having planks over the boxes so that they could sleep on top of them. Other emigrants slept in tents near their wagons.

Activity 4: Make a Daisy Chain

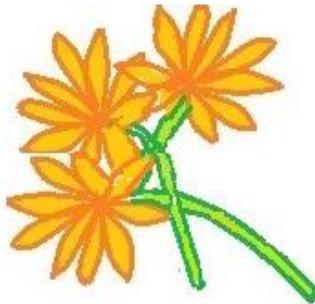
In *The Pioneer Adventure*, Ginny teaches some children how to make a flower chain, also known as a “daisy chain.” To make a flower chain, take about 20 daisy-like flowers with thick stems and cut them so that the stems are about 4-5 inches long. Next, using your fingernail, make a 1/4-inch long slit in one of the stems between the middle of the stem and up next to the flower, depending on how close together you want your flowers to be:



Next, take a second flower and slide its stem through the slit in the first flower until the flowers are the distance apart that you would like them to be:



Now, make a slit in the stem of the second flower and thread a third flower through the slit:

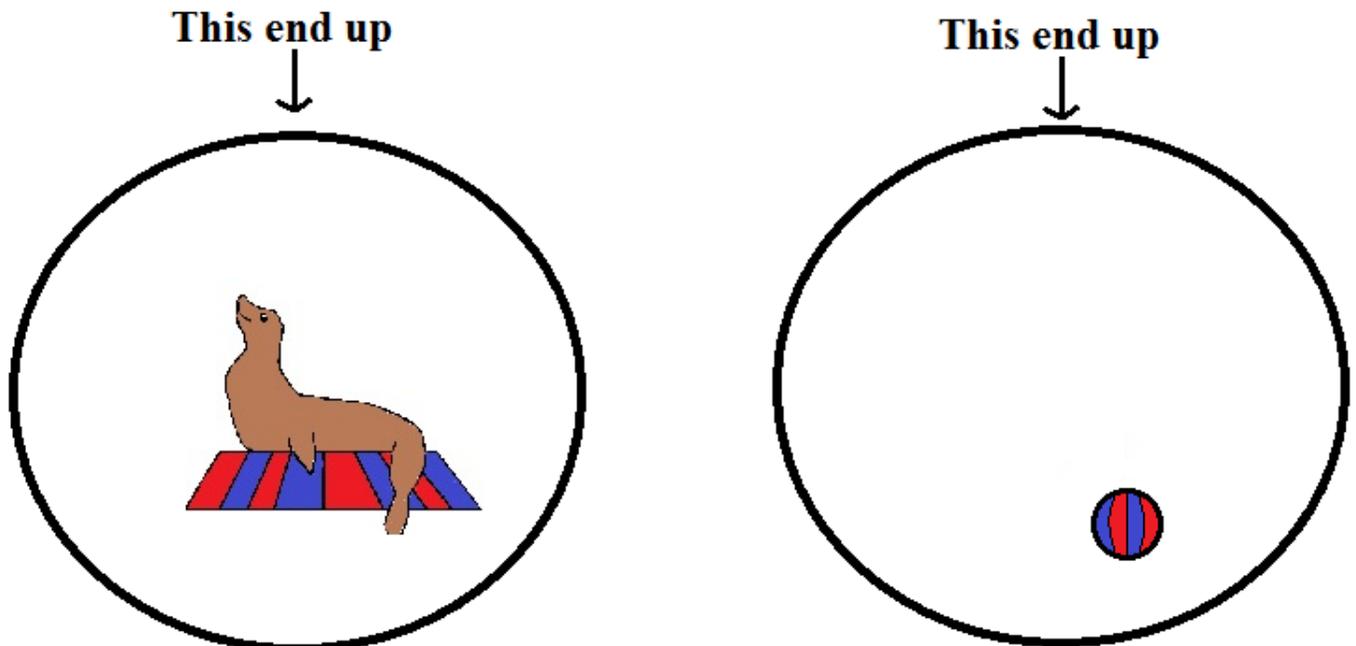


Keep threading the flowers with each new flower going through the stem of the previous one until you have made a complete chain. Close the chain and make it into a circle by threading the stem of the final flower through a slit in the stem of the very first flower of the chain.

Activity 5: Make a Thaumatrope

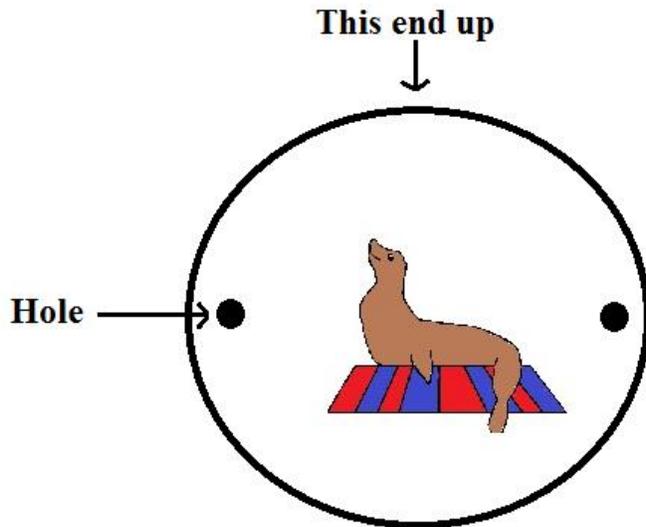
Thaumatropes are circles or cards with a picture on each side of them. When the circles are spun on a string, the two pictures blend together into one. This is due to the after-image formed by each picture in the viewer's eyes. Thaumatropes were popular in the 1800s, but it turns out that they've been around a lot longer than that. Scientists have discovered Paleolithic thaumatropes carved from bone!

Below is a pattern for a thaumatrope. Copy this page and cut out both circles.

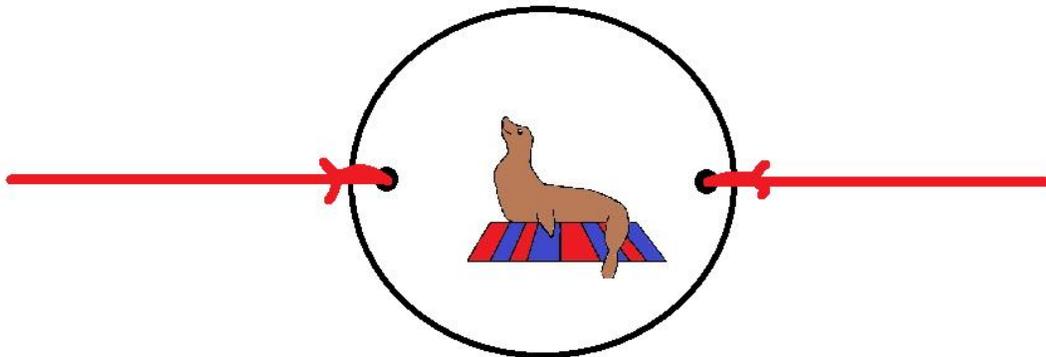


Trace the circles onto a piece of poster board or a file folder. Cut out the traced circles. Glue each picture to one of the poster board circles with a glue stick. You should now have two disks; one with the seal on it and one with the ball. Now glue the two disks together so that you have one disk with the seal on one side and the ball on the other. Make sure to glue them so that the sides marked "This end up" are both at the top of the disk.

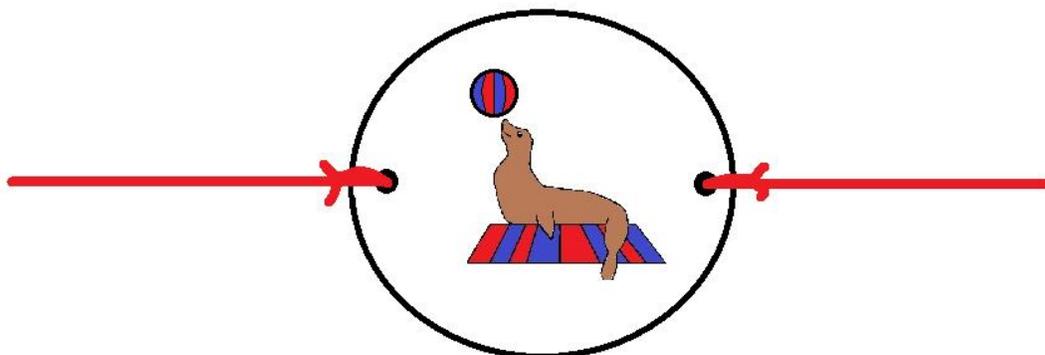
Next, take a hole punch and punch a hole on each side of the disk:



Now, tie a piece of string or yarn through each hole:



To use the thaumatrope, keep it from moving while you twist both strings. Then, let it spin and you will see the two images superimposed on each other so that it looks something like this:



See if you can think of other pictures to make a thaumatrope with. Some common ones are a fish in a bowl (put the fish on one side and the bowl on the other) or a bird in a cage. The possibilities are endless!

Activity 6: Photography and Camera Obscuras



Daguerreotypes, a type of photograph made on a copper plate coated with silver, were invented around 1837 by Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre and Joseph Nicéphore Niepce. In 1839 they released the process to the public and daguerreotype photography became an instant hit. Before this, the only way people could record their images was either by drawing and painting or by making a silhouette. One thing some artists did to make their images more accurate was to project a camera obscura image that they could trace. Camera obscura images are made by projecting light from a small pinhole onto a surface. For a free pdf with some camera obscura projects and information, you can go to my website at www.funasticunitstudies.com and sign up as a subscriber on the right side of the page. (Since the activities are a subscriber exclusive, I couldn't add them directly to this pdf.)

A daguerreotype from the late 1800s. The color is from the copper oxidizing.

Activity 7: Make a Silhouette

Silhouettes were a popular way to record a person's likeness back in the 1800s. You can make a silhouette of a friend by taping a large piece of white paper to the wall and having them sit sideways one to two feet away from it. Shine a light like a desk light on their head so that the shadow of their profile is projected onto the paper. You will probably need to have the desk light standing on something. Make sure that the shadow isn't too large. It will eventually need to fit onto a piece of black construction paper.



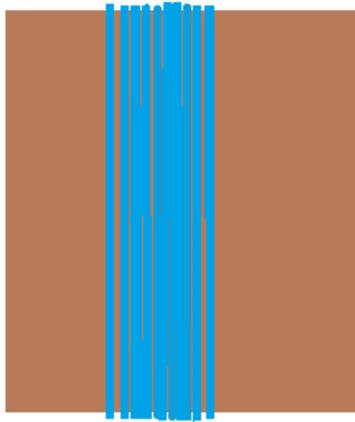
Carefully trace around the shadow and cut it out of the white paper. Now place the white paper cut-out on top of a piece of black construction paper and trace the outline onto the black paper. Cut out the black-paper silhouette and glue it to another piece of white paper for the finished product.



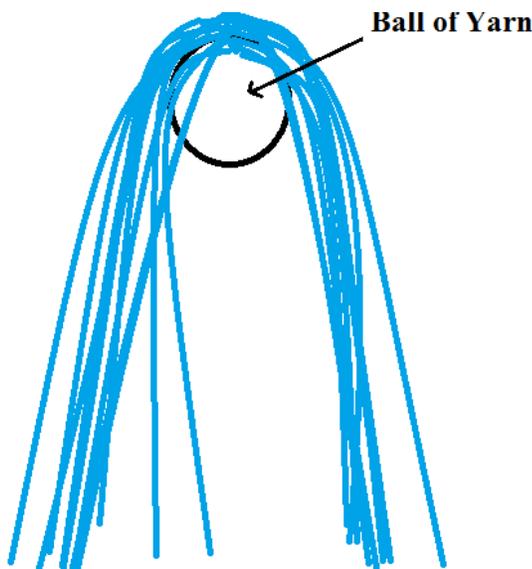
Activity 8: Make a Yarn Doll

The pioneers didn't have many stores to purchase things in. They had to make a lot of the things that we just go to the store to purchase. Because of this, handmade dolls were much more common in the 1800s than they are today. To make your own yarn doll, start by taking a small piece of paper and winding yarn around it until you have a yarn ball that is about 1 inch in diameter. Make sure to keep changing directions while you wind it to help hold the ball together. When you are finished, tuck the loose end under the wound yarn to hold it in place. Set the ball aside while you work on the next step.

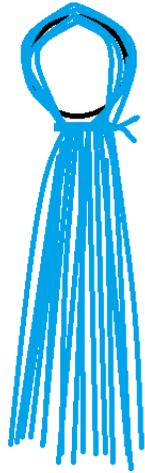
Cut a piece of corrugated cardboard that is 11 inches by at least 4 inches and start winding yarn around it lengthwise. The yarn should be the same color as the yarn you used to make the ball. Stop winding the yarn when you've wound it completely around the cardboard 50 times. The yarn should be clumped together in the middle of the cardboard:



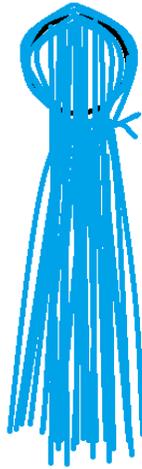
Next, hold the yarn together with one hand and cut the clump of yarn across either the top or bottom (but not both). Split the resulting clump of yarn in half. Set one half aside. Take the other half and drape it over the ball of yarn you made previously so that it looks like hair going up one side, over the top and down the other. Make sure that the yarn is the same length on both sides of the ball:



Now, take a small piece of the yarn and use it to tie the strands of yarn tightly around the ball:



Next, take the second half of the yarn that you had set aside and do the same thing with it—only this time drape it over the yarn ball so that it covers the side of the ball that wasn't covered the first time:

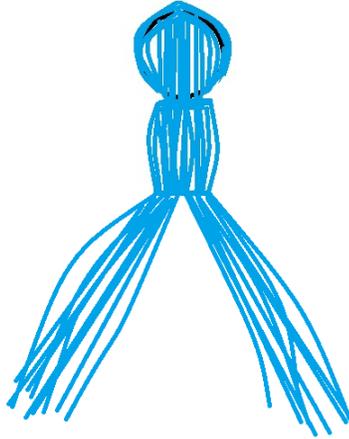


When you are done, tie another string around the base of the ball to hold this wrap in place. Now, take another string and tie it around the yarn about two inches down from the ball:



Next, take the loose strands at the bottom half of the doll and split them in half:

Take one of the halves, split it into thirds, and braid it. Tie it off at the bottom and



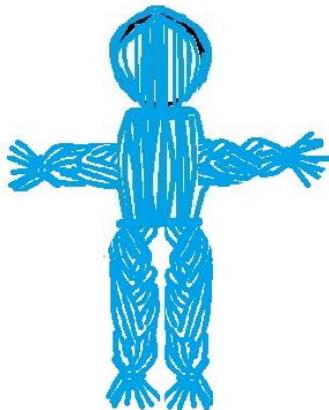
then do the same thing with the second half:



Set the doll aside and wind another coil of yarn, this time around a 3-inch long piece of cardboard. Wind it fifty times and then cut the bottom of the coil like you did before. Tie one end, separate the strands into three sections, and then braid them together. Tie the other end to finish the braid:



Now, take the braid you just made and tuck it through the middle of the body of the doll:



Your yarn doll is now finished! If you like, you can make clothes for it out of felt.

Praise for Susan Kilbride's *Science Unit Studies for Homeschoolers and Teachers*

If you are looking for quality science units, but simply don't have the time to put a unit together, Susan's book is perfect for you. If you want to supplement your existing science program, I definitely recommend taking a close look at the book. Those of you who might be a little scared of trying to put together your own science lessons for fear you might get something wrong, fear no more. . . .

--Jackie from Quaint Scribbles--

This collection of fun science lessons and activities are designed to offer hands on experiments that will satisfy the curious nature of children, while making it easier for parents to teach science.

--Kathy Davis of HomeschoolBuzz.com--

If you're looking for a science unit study homeschool program that is easy to use and is comprehensive and worth using, then you should check out Science Unit Studies for Homeschoolers and Teachers. I recently read through the book and really liked what I saw.

--Heidi Johnson of Homeschool-how-to.com--

I think Science Unit Studies for Homeschoolers and Teachers is a good value and provides a lot of fun, hands-on science for homeschoolers.

--Courtney Larson, The Old Schoolhouse® Magazine--

. . . .the conversational style and logical, easy-to-follow instructions certainly make this a recommended and useful tool for any parent; especially those that may be uncomfortable or unfamiliar with teaching science.

--Jeanie Frias of California Homeschooler--

The wealth of information included therein is amazing and the material is novice friendly. I would definitely recommend Science Unit Studies for Homeschoolers and Teachers.

-- Bridgette Taylor with Hearts at Home Curriculum--

Susan's book is full of so many activities that one would have a very full study of general science over the course of a school year if every activity was completed. I teach a General Science class at a local homeschool co-op and I am implementing a lot of the activities in this book into my class this year. There are even short quizzes (complete with answer keys) provided for the older student unit studies. The quizzes are multiple choice in format and cover the main points students should glean from each unit. I highly recommend this book for any science teacher or student. It really makes the teaching of science quite simple and fun.

Overall I give Susan's book 5+ stars.

--Heart of the Matter Online--

Science Unit Studies for Homeschoolers and Teachers is available online at Amazon.com:

http://www.amazon.com/Science-Unit-Studies-Homeschoolers-Teachers/dp/1463549156/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1310266925&sr=8-1