How to make a corn-husk doll

To make a corn-husk doll, use the pale inner husks from six ears of corn. Dry the husks between layers of newspaper for about one week or until they are a light straw color; then sprinkle them with water and place them in a plastic bag to soften overnight. You will also need dried corn silk, a 5-inch length of wire for the doll's arms, beige carpet thread for tying the husks together, several 1/4-inch-wide strips of husk to hide the thread ties, and three 3/4-inch-wide husk strips to make the doll's shawl and waistband. Form the doll's body, then let it stand for several days to dry. Afterward, glue the corn silk in place for hair and draw the face with pen and ink.

1. Roll five husks together and tie at the center, peel top half down, and tie 1 in. below top to make head. Tie a second bundle, set it atop first, peel down, and tie. Hide thread with ¼ inch husk strips tied at back of head.
2. Thread arm wire through one husk, then roll husk around wire. Tie at center and wrists. Tie husk strips around wrists and elbows. Lash arms onto body with 1/4-in. husk strips, then cover with 3/4-in. strips tied at waist,
3. Wrap layers of husks—wide ends down—around waist for skirt, and tie in place. For extra strength tie twice around final layer. Trim husk tops, then hide waist with a 3/4-in. husk strip tied in place with two 1/4 in. strips.