

IT'S “SEW” EASY!

Making an Autograph Bunny

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Tennessee 4-H Youth Development

It's "Sew" Easy!

Making an Autograph Bunny

Skill Level

Beginner

Learner Outcomes

The learner will be able to:

- Sew straight and curved lines.
- Understand and following a sewing pattern.

Educational Standard(s) Supported

This lesson is to be used in a project group and is not aligned to state content standards.

Success Indicator

Learners will be successful if they:

- Complete a small sewing project

Time Needed

90-120 Minutes

Materials List

For each student:

- Cotton fabric.
- Thread.
- Straight pins.
- Paper practice sheets.
- Template.
- Measuring tape.
- Sewing machines.
- Fiber fill.

Introduction to Content

Sewing is one of aspect of the Clothing and Textiles 4-H Project Areas. As you learn to sew you can have a lot of fun making new and creative projects! Sewing is a lost art that has come back to life in recent years, and there are many new and exciting projects to make.

Introduction to Methodology

This lesson implements the use of making an autograph bunny as a demonstrative tool for the importance of following directions. The process of sewing this bunny keeps youth engaged throughout the process. Visuals and handouts are used as reinforcing tools for the youth.

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Terms and Concepts Introduction

- **Stitch** — A loop of thread resulting from a single pass or movement of the needle in sewing.
- **Seam allowance** — Refers to the area between the stitching and raw, cut edge of the fabric.

Setting the Stage and Opening Questions

In order to be successful at sewing, you will first need to practice sewing straight and curved lines on paper for practice. This will give you the confidence you need to make a small project for the first time. Steps: (1) Set the sewing machine stitch to a straight line and then begin sewing straight lines on paper practice sheet. (2) Keep the sewing machine on a “straight line” setting, and use the practice sheets with the curved lines.

Ask the students the following questions:

- **What kind of small sewing projects have you completed in the past?**
- **What kinds of stitches/lines can your sewing machine sew?**
- **Do you think sewing is important? Why or why not?**

Tips for Engagement

- Be aware of the attention span of your audience. Give frequent opportunities for youth to ask questions through this step-by-step process.

Experience

Share the following steps for sewing a bunny with the students. Demonstrate as you provide the instructions.

- (1) Place fabric flat on table and fold lengthwise.
- (2) Place the bunny template on fabric and trace.
- (3) Cut out 2 pieces of fabric in the shape of the bunny that you just traced.
- (4) Pin the “wrong,” or the undersides of the fabric, sides together around the bunny.
- (5) Using a ¼-inch seam allowance, sew around the bunny leaving an area open to fill with fiberfill.
- (6) Using the fiberfill, “stuff” the bunny; you can make it as full or flimsy as you want.
- (7) Once the bunny is stuffed, you can then use a ¼-inch seam allowance to sew around the legs so the bunny is completely sewn.
- (8) Once the bunny is sewn, take the tip of your scissors and cut small snips around the seam edge to create a “frayed” look. (DO NOT cut into the thread!)
- (9) You now have a completed bunny project; you can have your friends autograph your creation!

Share

Ask the students the following questions.

- “What did you learn about sewing from this project?”
- “What are some new sewing terms you can define?”

Process

“How would being able to sew impact your life? Why do you think that is?”

Generalize

“Look at the shirt you are wearing. How long do you think it took someone to sew it? How about your pants?”

Apply

“What other small projects can you make on your own after this session?”

Life Skill(s)

Fourth Grade

- Follow instructions. (Head)
- Identify at least four project areas to consider as a project area for future 4-H work. (Head)

Fifth Grade

- Select at least one project area in which to focus future 4-H participation. (Head)

Supplemental Information

Pattern

