

Kirn Dollies

Do you know what a kirn dollie is? A kirn dollie (or corn dolly, or kern dollie) is a wheat weaving. The words kirn, corn, and kern really come from the term kernel or grain. The word dollie or dolly comes from the word idol. A kirn dollie is a grain idol. When it was harvest time folks would take some of the grain (wheat, barley, etc.) and create images of animals, goddesses or symbols. For instance: if a young man wanted to show his love for a maiden he might have woven a love token for his intended sweetheart and offered it to her. If she accepted it they might start a romance. The picture below is a representation of a love knot. Can you color it and give it to someone you love?

For a fun project get some black bearded wheat and soak it for a few hours in hot water. Take three pieces and tie them together just below the "head" of the kernels. Braid the three strands like you would traditionally braid hair. When you have about 10 inches braided, carefully tie the ends in a knot finishing by bringing the previously tied ends together with the end of the braided portion.....then tie all of these together. Now you have a love knot!

We hope you have had fun learning about Kirn Dollies!

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