

## HOW TO MAKE AN APPLE DOLL



### *Supplies you will need:*

A large, firm, unblemished apple (any kind will do, but Granny Smiths work especially well)  
An apple peeler or sharp knife  
A plastic knife or pumpkin carving knife  
A ballpoint pen or other not-too-sharp pointed tool  
Enough lemon juice to completely cover your apple  
Salt  
Pipe cleaners  
Glue  
Yarn, wool, or cotton balls for hair  
Colored beads  
A pink marker  
Scraps of fabric, lace, and feathers or small premade doll clothes

1. With the help of an adult, carefully peel your apple.

2. Hold your apple, stem up. With a pumpkin carver or plastic knife, carve an outline of the shape you want the nose to be on the finished doll. Then carve out around that shape. This is the trickiest part of making apple people, and may require an adult's help, too.



3. Using a ballpoint pen or other pointed tool, poke holes or slits in your apple for eyes. Use the same tool to carve out a mouth.



4. Put enough lemon juice in a bowl to completely cover your apple. Dissolve a tablespoon of salt in the juice. Soak the apple in the mixture for half an hour. The apple will bob to the top of the liquid, so be sure to put a heavy object, like a plate or lid, on it to weigh it down.

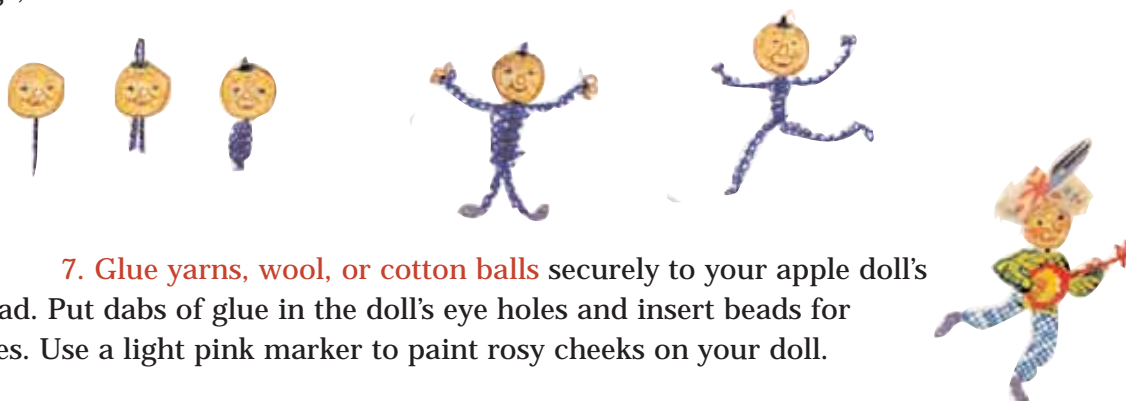


**5. Drying the apple** will take several days. The apple will dry if left in any warm, dry place. It will dry most quickly in the oven. Set the apple upright on a greased cookie sheet. Cover the apple's "nose" with a scrap of tinfoil to prevent burning, and put the apple in an oven set at 200 degrees. After about 30 minutes, reduce the oven temperature to WARM, or the lowest setting. At this point, you may want to rotate the apple so that its bottom doesn't get mushy. Leave your apple in the warm oven for about three days, turning the oven off at night.

Instead of using the oven, you can dry your apple by leaving it on a sunny windowsill, a car's dashboard, or a radiator. You can hang it from a wire or string or press it onto a stick if you want to make sure that there is plenty of air circulating around your apple.

However you choose to dry it, check your apple occasionally to make sure that it is drying evenly on all sides. Feel free to pinch, mold, and shape the apple's face as it dries. The apple will shrink considerably and will become somewhat wrinkled as well. It will look golden and suntanned. When the apple head feels more dry than moist, and somewhat spongy and leathery to the touch, it is done drying.

**6. To make your doll's body**, carefully poke a hole into the bottom of the apple with a thin pointed stick or skewer and insert a pipe cleaner securely into the hole. For extra sturdiness, you can poke a hole through the entire apple, bend a pipe cleaner in half, and insert it all the way through the apple. Begin to twist other pipe cleaners around the first one, to form the apple doll's middle. Fasten other pipe cleaners to the middle to form arms and legs, hands and feet. Make your doll as plump as you like by twisting more pipe cleaners around the arms, legs, and middle.



**7. Glue yarns, wool, or cotton balls** securely to your apple doll's head. Put dabs of glue in the doll's eye holes and insert beads for eyes. Use a light pink marker to paint rosy cheeks on your doll.

**8. Dress your apple doll** in scraps of fabric, doll clothes, feathers—anything you want. With pipe cleaners or clay, you can make chairs for your doll to sit in and miniature musical instruments for it to play. Have fun and enjoy the little person you created. It will last forever if you keep it in a dry place.