



Cowgirl Honoree Laura Ingalls Wilder was only two years old when her family began to move across the plains in a covered wagon. Born in a log cabin in Wisconsin, Laura moved several times throughout her childhood, and it was these memories that influenced her famous series *Little House on the Prairie*. Inspired by her pioneer life, these crafts include a traditional yarn doll, and a log cabin for our modern feathered travelers- Birds!

MATERIALS: YARN DOLL

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Cardboard or book

LOG CABIN BIRD HOUSE

- Water bottle or milk jug
- Knife or scissors (adult use)
- Paint and paintbrush
- Hot glue or craft glue

- Popsicle Sticks
- String
- Construction Paper
- Optional: Cotton ball

YARN DOLL

Wrap yarn
 around a piece
 of cardboard or
 a hardback
 book at least
 30 times.



2. Cut the tail off the yarn, then remove the yarn from the book or cardboard by cutting through one side. You will have a long bunch of yarn pieces that are the same length.



3. Wrap the middle of the yarn bunch with a separate piece of yarn.



4. Fold the yarn bunch in half, using the tied piece of yarn as the top.



5. To make a head, make a bunch at the top of the yarn and tie with a separate piece of yarn.



6. Divide the yarn into three sections, two for arms and one for the body.



7. Braid, tie, and trim the arms, or simply tie the arms depending on the look you want.



8. Tie a piece of yarn around the body to create a waist. Leave the yarn full for a skirt, or braid for legs. Your yarn doll is complete! You can add clothing, make a whole family- let your creativity run wild!





LOG CABIN BIRD HOUSE

1. Remove any labels from the water bottle, and have an adult cut a window in the front of the bottle.



2. Paint the water bottle with acrylic or another opaque paint. Let dry.



3. Cut popsicle sticks down to fit the size of your water bottle.
Glue the popsicle sticks to each side, leaving space for the "logs" to give the illusion of the overlapping corners



4. Add three popsicle sticks to the entrance of the house as a perch.



5. Poke a hole near the top of the water bottle and tie a string if the bird house is going to be hung. Glue on a roof to either side using construction paper. Optionally, pull apart a cotton ball and add to the opening of the water bottle for a chimney!



6. Hang your log cabin outside! Fill with birdseed to attract some friendly feathered travelers. Keep under a covered porch or patio, and take inside if it rains.

