

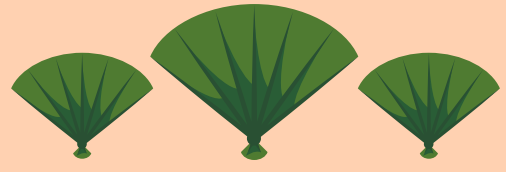
Glorious Georgians

A day in the life of a Georgian child

Georgian pastimes: French knitting



Summer
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Back in 1812, at the height of the Napoleonic Wars, a machine to make lace was invented in England by John Leavers. The basis of his machine was the Elizabethan "stocking frame", invented around 1589 by a vicar, Rev. William Lee, to help his wife knit stockings. French knitting uses the same technique.

You will need:

- A cardboard tube
- An elastic band (optional)
- 5 lolly sticks or plant labels or thick card
- Wool
- Sticky tape (any type)

Follow these step by step instructions to make your own french knitter and then wow your friends with your knitting skills.



Arrange your 5 lolly sticks or plant labels evenly around your tube,, leaving about 4.5cms poking over the top. Hold in place with an elastic band.



Secure in place with sticky tape, near the top of your tube and around the bottom of your sticks. If you don't have an elastic band ask someone to help.



Take a ball of wool or string and poke it down through your tube so the end comes out at the bottom.



Wrap the wool around your first lolly stick and then continue onto the rest of your sticks in turn clockwise.



You have completed your first row!



Make a loop exactly like the loops you make in your first row above your first stick. This is the start of your second row.

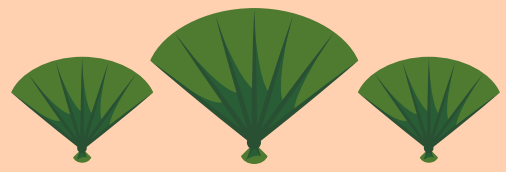
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What will you make?

Here's our very own,
french knitted, cat toy!



Push the bottom loop over the second row loop and pull the wool poking out underneath



Continue making a loop on each stick and pushing the wool from the bottom loop over the top loop.



You can see that your knitting is starting to grow.



When you have knitted the length you need for your project, cut off your wool leaving about 20cm loose at the top and loop the end through each of your loops and tie a knot.



Pull your knitting free of the tube.



What will you make with it? A scarf for a teddy?, a coaster? a pet worm?