

What do I need?

- Lolly sticks
- Strong glue
- Scraps of old fabric
- Yellow or brown twine
- Scissors
- Card
- Coloured pens
- Kitchen roll tube



scarecrow

What do I do?

Use your glue to stick two lolly sticks together so that they overlap by about 1cm to make a longer stick.

Cut your kitchen roll tube in half. Glue your long lolly stick inside one of the halves, leaving 3cm of it poking out of the top and 5cm poking out from the bottom.

Press down on your tube to flatten it into a rectangle.

Cut a piece of your card into a 3cm circle and this glue to the top of your lolly stick to make the scarecrow head. Then, cut about 6-8 short lengths of twine and glue them onto the circle to make the hair.

Next, cut a T-shirt shape from one of your fabric scraps and the shape of a pair of trousers from a different scrap of fabric. Glue these to the top and bottom of your flattened tube to form the torso and legs. You can cut a fabric hat for your scarecrow too if you want to.

Cut a lolly stick in half and glue one half to each side of the T-shirt for your scarecrow's arms.

Now simply draw a smiley face on your scarecrow's head to bring your creation to life!

Plant your scarecrow in a pot in your garden. Why not put it in one you're growing fruits or vegetable in to scare those pesky birds away and stop them eating your harvest?

what is the harvest festival?



In Britain, the Christian festival of Harvest has been celebrated for hundreds of year. It's typically celebrated on the Sunday nearest to the harvest moon - the full moon occurring closest to the Autumn equinox, usually around September 23rd. Harvest Festival celebrates the food grown throughout the year, with Christians decorating churches in the fruits of the harvest, donating food to those in need and giving hymns and prayers to God in thanks for the land.

Harvest celebrations also take place in many other faiths and cultures around the world, especially when there's been a very fruitful harvest.

In Islam the Harvest Festival is called *Eid-ul-Azha*. It is a sacrificial festival as it remembers Abraham's great act of faith when he sacrificed his son, Ismaeel, to Allah.

Faithful believers are rewarded by reaping the fruits of their good deeds and receive Allah's abundant blessings.



In Judaism the celebration of the harvest is called *Sukkot*. This festival last for a whole week and is one of the three great pilgrimage festivals in the Jewish calendar.

During the festival, Jews remember their ancestors who were freed from slavery in Egypt.

In Western Africa, communities celebrate the Yam Festival at the end of the rainy season. Yams are one of the first crops to be harvested and are offered first to the gods and to ancestors before being distributed around the village.

In Britain farmers often put scarecrows in their fields during the harvest to prevent birds from eating their crops. These days scarecrows are built from straw and wood, but in Medieval Britain scarecrows were often young boys whose job it was to run around and scare the birds away from the crops. After the great plague in 1348, farmers couldn't find enough boys to do the job so filled sacks with straw and carved faces on them to intimidate the birds.

