

Beaded Corn

Did you know that corn has been domesticated for about 10,000 years? People in prehistoric times first started collecting corn from a plant called *teosinte* and it became one of Mesoamerica's and the Southwest most important crops. Corn can be different colors like red, brown and even black although yellow is the most common one. Today, *maize* or corn is still used in many different ways when cooking. From cooking delicious and traditional dishes to making tortillas or simply adding some butter, corn continues to play an important role in people's every day diet.

Create your own beaded corn following the steps below.

Materials:

- 4 pipe cleaners: these can be brown or green like the husk or leaves that protect the corn.
- Pony beads: these can be yellow, white, brown, black or red.

Steps:

1. Grab all 4 pipe cleaners and hold them together making sure they are even on each end.
2. Grab them from the middle and twist them together. Make sure none of them are loose.
3. Next, separate each pipe cleaner in order to form a star.
4. Start inserting the pony beads on each pipe cleaner. These can be in any order or color you like. Make sure you leave enough space at the end of each pipe cleaner so you can tie them together.
5. Once all pipe cleaners have beads, bend each pipe cleaner upward bringing all the ends together to form the beaded corn.
6. Twist the ends together as close as you can to the beads. This will secure the beads and created the husk of the corn at the top.

