

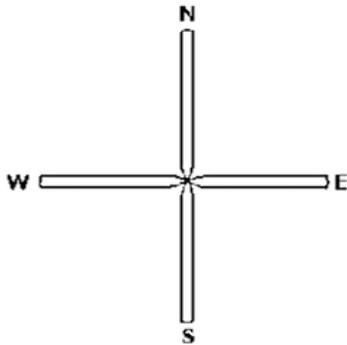
Harvest Knot for Lughnasa

You will need to pre-soak your straw before you begin to plait. An old towel or cloth, as well as a good pair of scissors will also be needed to complete these projects. Soak the straws in warm water in a sink, washing up bowl, bath or trough for at least an hour making sure that they are completely covered with water by placing a tea towel on top of them. BE CAREFUL not to let any loose seeds go down the drain.

4 Straw Compass Plait

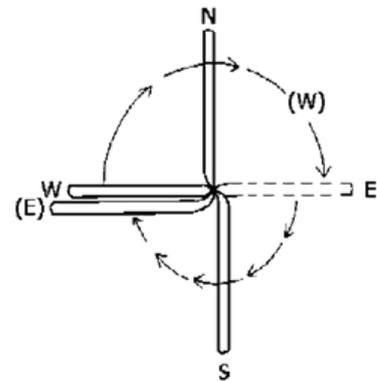
Step 1

Tie 4 straws tightly together under the heads. Spread out into NSEW.



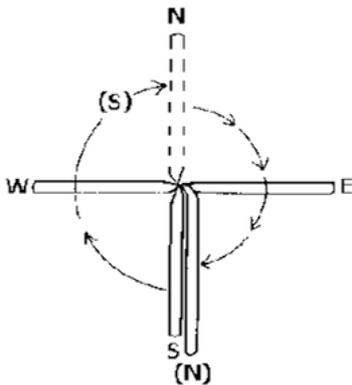
Step 3

In a similar move, bring E across to lie by W. Take W across to where E was.

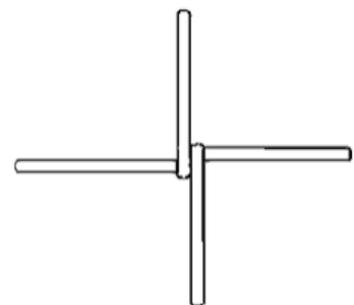


Step 2

Bring N down to lie by S. Take S up where N was.



It's important to keep the cross straws parallel as they cross over. Looking down on your plait it should look like this:



When you have completed the required length of plait, bring all four straws up together and tie securely with a piece of thread. With a slightly longer length of plait, you can make a simple looped favour. When you have completed and tied off your length of plait, again leaving about 8cms of straw, you can intertwine the plait into a double knot. Then take the end of the straws round to the back and tie to the wheat ears. Decorate with ribbon, if you wish.



3 Straw Hair Braid Plait

Step 1

Tie 3 straws tightly together under the heads. Spread out with one straw to the left and two to the right.



Step 2

From the group of 2 bring the outer straw and lay it on the inside of the straw on the left.



Remaining Steps

Repeat this sequence of bringing the outer straw from the group of two over to the inside of the single straw.

When you have completed the required length of plait, bring all three straws together and tie securely.

This is what your plait should look like:



When you have completed the required length of plait, bring all four straws up together and tie securely with a piece of thread.

Take a photo of yourself or your loved one wearing the Harvest Knot and send to manager@nenagharts.com by July 30th to be part of our online exhibition.

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