

Button “Hummer” —

A Craft from Appalachia USA

Materials: 1 yard length embroidery floss
1 large button (with 2 to 4 holes in the middle)

Many generations of Appalachian people have grown up with few material possessions. Because of this, historically, many of the children’s toys were homemade, from common objects.

This old Appalachian toy is easy to make!

1. Select a button.
2. Insert a length of string through two of the buttonholes. If your button has four holes, put the string through two diagonal holes.
3. Tie the ends of the string together.
4. Keeping the button in the middle of the string loop, put one finger from one hand through the string on one side of the button. Put a finger from the other hand through the string on the other side of the button.
5. Holding one side of the string still with one hand, twirl the other end with the other hand to “wind” the string.
6. Slowly stretch the string out to unwind it and let it re-wind slowly back in. Gradually increase the speed of winding and rewinding to make your button toy hum!