



## Winter Holidays Christmas Tree Ornaments



## Antebellum Tree Yarn Dolls

Christmas trees in Antebellum America were commonly placed on a table in the parlor, the most formal room in the house, following the fashion set by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. As commercially produced ornaments were not widely available, children and adults alike often made their own. Small gifts were often hung on the tree. Cookies, dried and preserved fruits, and gilded nuts made fashionable and tasty decorations. Yarn dolls, cornshuck dolls, snowflakes, and other cut paper ornaments decorated the tree. The tree was “lit” with candles in special holders that clipped to the branches.

### Materials

8 inch pieces of cardboard  
Yarn

Scissors

### Instructions

- Wind the yarn over and over a strong piece of cardboard eight inches long, until a thick amount is formed.
- Take a long piece of yarn, and tie all the yarn at the top of the cardboard together.
- Cut through the yarn at the bottom of the cardboard.
- Take another piece of yarn, placing it about 1” from the top and tie all strands of yarn together to form the doll’s head.
- Separate about ten strands on either side of the neck for the arms. Tie these about two and one half inches from the neck; then cut off a little beyond the tie to form the arms.
- All the other strands are tied about two inches down from the neck, making a waist.
- The rest of the yarn is the skirt.

