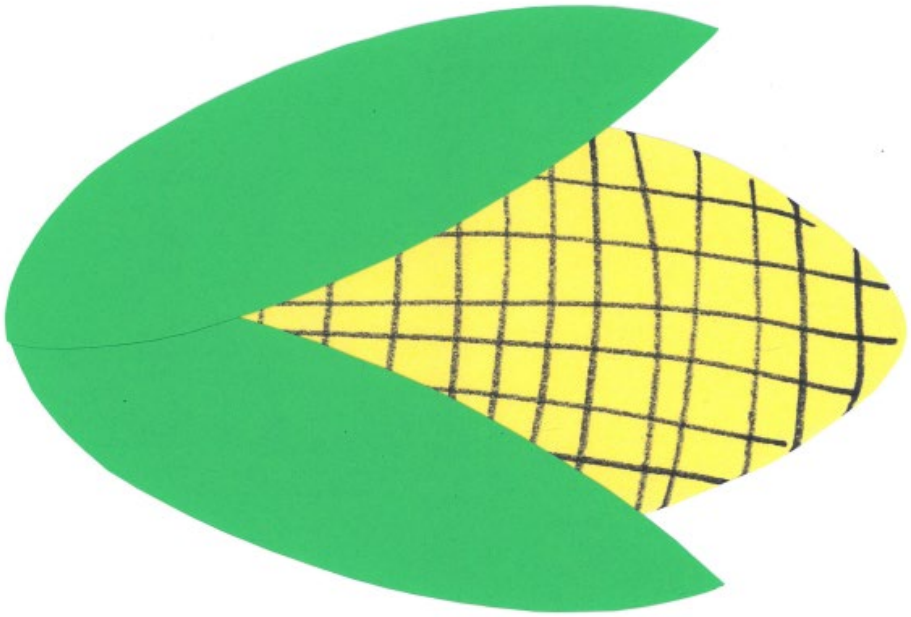
Corn Cob Activity Instructions

Supplies Needed:

- Colored construction paper (white/beige, yellow, red, dark blue/indigo, green)
- Glue or glue sticks
- Markers or crayons or color pencils. Dot markers can also be used.
- Scissors

Instructions:

1. Grab one large oval piece of paper and draw grid lines on it with a marker, crayon, or color pencil. Use a dark color like black, gray, or brown.
2. Grab two of the smaller shapes (the “husk” of the corn) and arrange them as shown in the example.
3. Glue the two pieces of paper down and you will have a finished corn cob!
4. You can further decorate it by drawing on it, or by adding other pieces of paper or stickers.



Corn, or maize, was created around 9,000 years ago by Mesoamerican Indigenous farmers, in modern-day Mexico. They carefully bread wild plants to create a new plant – one that would grow where they needed it. Over time, maize was grown throughout Mesoamerica and into North America. By the 1600s, Indigenous people were growing corn as far north as the lakes we call Erie and Ontario. Everywhere it was planted, the farmers picked the seeds that grew best where they lived.

Corn became the staple food of many tribes living in the Americas. That means that they ate it nearly every day. Some tribes could eat it fresh from the stalks in the summer, or roast it over coals, bake it into breads, or make it into soups. Extra corn would be dried and made into cornmeal. Cornmeal might be added to soups, or made into something like tortillas and tamales. These traditions are still part of many people's food culture.