



# BAG IT!

## 4-H Clothing Lesson

### HAND STITCH A BEAN BAG ANIMAL

#### Project Skills:

Practice sewing basic hand stitches

#### Life Skills:

Learning to Learn  
WI Academic Standards: Family and Consumer Education F.4.  
Learning to Learn

#### Time:

25-30 minutes

#### Supplies:

- Bag It! activity sheet
- Felt fabric
- 1 pair of scissors for each child
- 1 needle and thread for each child
- Straight pins
- Beans or other stuffing material
- Decorating items such as:
  - Scrap felt
  - Markers
  - Pipe Cleaners
  - Buttons
  - Glue sticks
  - Googly eyes
  - Transparent tape
  - Anything else you want such as glitter or sequins!

#### Getting Ready:

1. Make enough copies of the *Bag It! activity sheet* for each youth.
2. Familiarize yourself with using a blanket hand stitch.
3. Cut 2 pieces of 8"x 8" felt fabric for each youth.
4. Cut a 4' piece of thread for each youth.

Adapted from 4-H Fun with Clothes, Lesson 1 – Activity 11 (IFAS Pub. #SPCCL20), pp. 28-29.

#### WHAT TO DO

*Cut out your Bean Bag.*

1. Give each child two pieces of 8"x 8" felt fabric and copy of the *Bag It! activity sheet*.
2. Have youth cut out the pattern and pin it onto one of the felt pieces. Cut it out.
3. Have youth remove the pattern and pin it onto the second piece of felt. Cut it out.
4. Ask youth to remove the pattern from the felt.

*Sew your Bean Bag together.*

1. Demonstrate how to use straight pins to pin two pieces of felt together. Have youth pin the two pieces of felt together using straight pins.
2. Demonstrate how to use a blanket stitch to sew two pieces of felt together. Have youth use a blanket stitch to sew the two pieces of felt together using a ¼ to ½ inch seam. Make certain to leave a 2 inch opening that is not sewn.
3. Remove the straight pins you used to pin the felt together.

*Decorate and fill your Bean Bag.*

1. Instruct youth to turn the fabric inside out.
2. Lay out the decorating materials and encourage youth to decorate the face of their bean bag.
3. Distribute the beans (or filling material). Have youth fill their bean bags.
4. Have youth stitch the 2" opening closed using a blanket stitch.

#### ENHANCE

If you have access to sewing machines, have youth use sewing machines to sew the bean bag patterns together. Refer to the License to Drive lesson for activities to prepare youth with using a sewing machine. You may want to have youth practice sewing on the *License to Drive Curves sheet* prior to sewing their bean bag.

#### TALK IT OVER

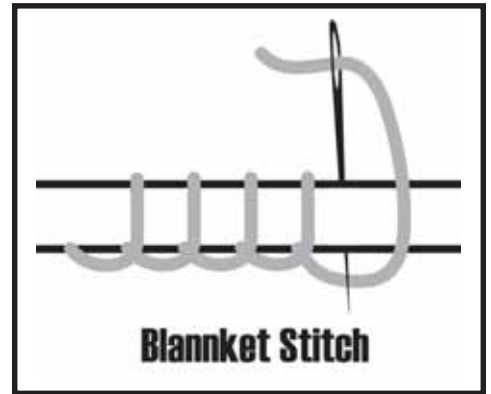
Try to get each youth to express his or her feelings and experiences.

Reflect:

- How did it go making your bean bag?
- What was difficult about making your bean bag?

Apply:

- How can you use this new skill you have learned?
- What other things could you make at home by sewing and stuffing with a filling material?



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