Crocheting is one of the oldest needlework arts. To crochet means to form yarn or thread into a fabric using a hook. Its name comes from the French word “croche,” meaning “hook.” The crochet hook was one of many tools first used to make delicate lace. As time went on, more stitches and designs came into being, and crocheting became a separate art.

Crocheting appeals to many people because it can be used to make a variety of creations, such as scarves, caps, vests, sweaters, purses, belts, laces, doilies, tablecloths, afghans, pillow covers, and bedspreads.

In the 4-H Crocheting project you can learn to:
- Crochet articles for yourself and others
- Select, use, and care for crocheting tools
- Work and share with others in your club
- Keep simple records of your project and activities

The 4-H Crocheting project is divided into six phases. Skills to be learned and suggested items to make are outlined on page 2. A form for you to use to record your project activities begins on page 3.

Your club leader will teach you how to do basic crochet stitches, and help you find patterns to use as you learn. When you reach the advanced phases, you’ll need to select patterns from a variety of pattern books, needlework books, and magazines. These are available at newsstands, notions counters, fabric stores, or specialty shops that sell yarn and thread.

If you want to show others what you learn in the Crocheting project, check with your leader about exhibiting items at fairs or other community events. If you make an article to wear, you might like to model in your county 4-H fashion revue. Giving a presentation at a club meeting, contest, or community center is another way to share with others what you have learned. Sharing also happens when you make a gift for someone using the skills you’ve learned in the project.

Prepared by Barbara J. Sawyer, Extension specialist emeritus, 4-H youth development, Oregon State University.

For most current information: http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu
## Sequence of Phases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Skills to learn</th>
<th>Other things to learn</th>
<th>Suggested articles</th>
<th>Exhibits (optional)</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1     | Winding and joining yarn  
Reading and understanding a pattern  
Chain stitch, single crochet, double crochet, slip stitch  
Increasing, decreasing (if pattern calls for it)  
Crocheting tools  
Crocheting terms  
Different yarns, threads  
Gauge and tension  
Blocking, laundering, and caring for crocheted articles | Crocheting tools  
Crocheting terms  
Different yarns, threads  
Gauge and tension  
Blocking, laundering, and caring for crocheted articles | Two or more articles using skills learned  
scarf, bag, purse, belt,  
place mats, pot holder, pillow top, simple stocking cap | One article showing one or more skills learned |
| 2     | Combining skills to form various patterns, stitches  
Understanding more advanced pattern instructions  
Attaching yarn of another color  
Treble crochet, double treble, v stitch  
Crocheting in rounds; increasing, decreasing (if pattern calls for it)  
New crochet terms  
More about yarns, threads  
More about tension, gauge  
Achieving textures by varying stitches | New crochet terms  
More about yarns, threads  
More about tension, gauge  
Achieving textures by varying stitches | Two small or one large article(s) using skills learned  
scarf, slippers, cape, poncho, skirt, top, simple afghan, top | One article showing the following skills:  
(a) one of the new stitches learned in Phase 2, or  
(b) a combination of stitches learned in Phases 1 and 2. Use of two or more colors is optional. |
| 3     | Increasing, decreasing  
Open or filet mesh, block or solid mesh, long single stitch, shell stitch and variations  
More about types and sizes of yarns, textures  
Using an interchangeable yarn chart  
New crochet terms  
Fit of apparel items | More about types and sizes of yarns, textures  
Using an interchangeable yarn chart  
New crochet terms  
Fit of apparel items | Two small or one large article(s) using skills learned  
scarf, slippers, cape, poncho, skirt, top, simple afghan, top | One article showing the following:  
(a) one or more stitches learned in Phase 3, or  
(b) variations or a combination of stitches learned in Phases 2 and 3 |
| 4*    | Learn at least two of the following:  
waffle (or rib) stitch, picot (Irish crochet), cluster stitch, popcorn stitch, star stitch, puff stitch  
Review of Phases 1–3 to help develop additional skills  
Experiment with at least one different type of yarn and thread (from rug yarn to bedspread cotton) | Review of Phases 1–3 to help develop additional skills  
Experiment with at least one different type of yarn and thread (from rug yarn to bedspread cotton) | Two small or one large article(s) using skills learned  
sweater with sleeves, cape with arm slits, patterned afghan, rug, small tablecloth or runner, simple doilies | One article showing the following:  
(a) one or more stitches learned in Phase 4, or  
(b) variations or a combination of stitches learned in Phases 3 and 4 |
| 5*    | Learn at least one of the following:  
afghan stitch, hairpin lace, broomstick crochet  
Adapting for any size yarn and type of yarn or thread suitable for pattern choice | Adapting for any size yarn and type of yarn or thread suitable for pattern choice | Two small or one large article(s) using skills learned  
scarf, bag, purse, belt, place mats, pot holder, pillow top, simple stocking cap | One article showing one or more of the following skills:  
(a) afghan stitch, (b) hairpin lace, (c) broomstick lace |
| 6*    | Create your own original design using skills learned in previous phases.  
Inspiration has come from a book, magazine, leader, and/or another individual or source.  
Using existing references, resources, and skills in combination  
Choosing appropriate yarn or thread for article  
Charting | Using existing references, resources, and skills in combination  
Choosing appropriate yarn or thread for article  
Charting | Two small or one large article(s) of own choosing  
(See suggestions listed for Phase 2) | One article based on an original design. Include an explanation of why and how it was created and how it will be used |

*It’s recommended that Phase 4 be repeated once with different stitches learned the second time. Phases 5 and 6 are also particularly suited for repeating.*
**4-H Crocheting Record**

Name ___________________________ County ___________ Grade _______ Year born _______

Address ___________________________ City ___________________________ Zip ___________

Club name ___________________________ Leader ___________________________

Year in 4-H _______ project _______ started _________________, 20 ______ closed ________________ , 20 ______

A record is part of your 4-H project. Keep your record neat, clean, and up-to-date. Pencil is recommended. If you need help, ask your parents or leader. If you need more space, add notebook paper.

**Things I Plan to Do and Learn This Year**

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

**Important Things I Did or Learned**

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

**Ways I Shared What I Learned**

________________________________________________________________________
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For most current information: http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu
### Activities in Consumership and Care of Articles Made

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What I did</th>
<th>Costs, if any</th>
<th>Satisfactions</th>
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### Equipment and Materials Purchased (if any)

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<th>Cost</th>
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### Articles Made

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<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Skills used</th>
<th>Total cost/Value*</th>
<th>Satisfactions</th>
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* Cost of comparable purchased article. (Filling out this section is optional.)