National Sewing Month celebrates sewing as a unique and creative form of textile art. September is a great time to renew your interest in sewing, share ideas, be inspired, expand your knowledge, and express your creativity!

Hand sewing is considered one of the oldest forms of textile art. The origins of sewing can be traced back more than 25,000 years ago, when people made clothes out of fur and leather. Using needles made from bone or ivory, or natural needles from plants and trees, people must have spent many hours hand sewing clothes for their families.

Before ready-to-wear clothes became widely available, generations of women learned how to sew for home and hearth from a very young age. Sewing tools improved over time, but very slowly. The sewing machine is a fairly recent invention, less than 200 years old. For thousands of years, all sewing was done by hand!

Today, sewing is a lot simpler and more fun with all the technology and materials available to us.

To learn or practice sewing skills, we prepared this simple toy sewing project. Get out your needle and thread, and master a few stitches. Happy sewing!

- Video tutorial
- Printable tutorial

San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles
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