

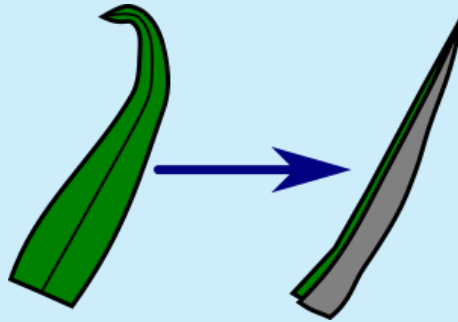
# How to make a Putiputi

**WARNING:** Do not eat while handling flax, and wash your hands afterwards. Swallowing flax can make you sick.

## You will need:

- one flax leaf
- a knife or pair of scissors

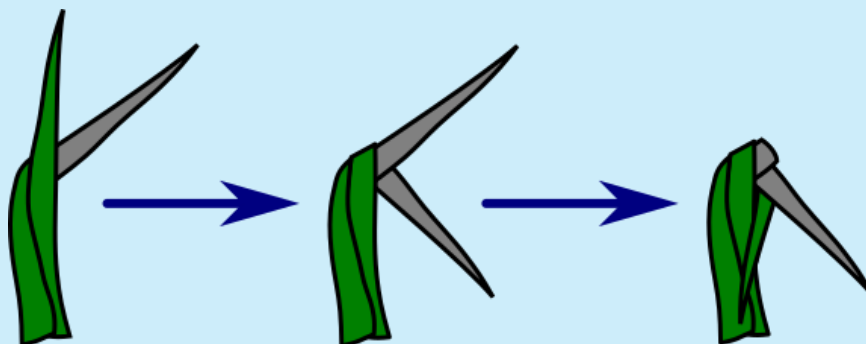
1. Cut a single flax leaf from a bush. You might want to ask an adult for help with this. Look for a leaf that has no holes and isn't split at the top.



2. Fold the flax leaf in half lengthwise. With your fingernails, pinch the thick rib running up the centre of the leaf and pull it away. This will split the leaf in two.

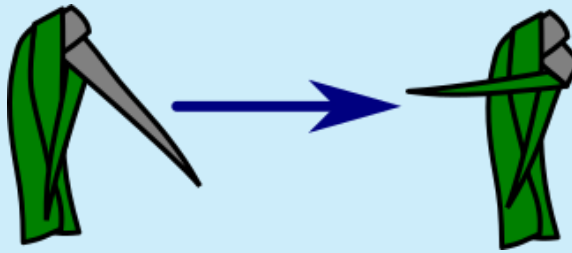
3. Using the back of a knife or some closed scissors, scrape the back of the flax to soften it a bit. This will also draw some of the moisture out of the plant fibers.

4. Hold the two strips of the leaf together at the bottom. Fold one strip behind the other at a 45 degree angle, then fold the second strip down over the first strip.



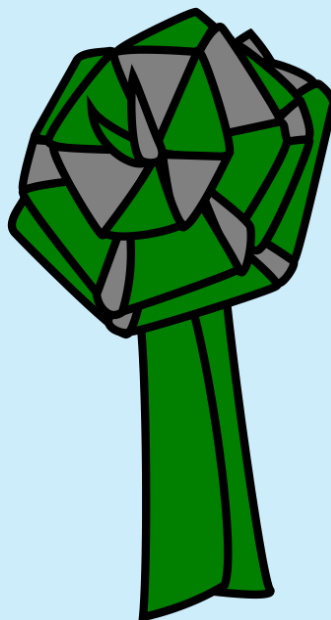
5. Repeat the process, making sure each time you fold a strip behind, you fold it level with the strip below. You should see a spiral begin to form. Keep folding.

6. After two or three repetitions of step four, you'll reach the 'stem' (the long bits of flax at the bottom). Fold the strip on top behind the other, as in step four, but make sure the strip goes **in front** of the flax for your stem.



7. Repeat step four until you reach the thin ends of your leaf. Tie the ends of the flax together.

8. Your putiputi is complete. Now you can decorate your room or house with your flower!



**TE RĀ O NGĀ  
TAMARIKI**  
CHILDREN'S DAY