

Thank you for volunteering to sew bean bags for education! These will be collected and filled on demand when schools visit. Machine sewing is recommended, and the drawstring is perhaps the most important part. It will keep the filling in the bean bag secure when children are playing with them.

A little bit of history behind the bags:

Children on the plantation sewed bean bags and played various games with them. Some children juggled several bean bags. Other games were similar to jacks and hackysack. Of course, they also threw them at each other as hard as they could.

Bean bags were usually hand sewn and filled with koa seeds or other types of seeds, like monkeypod or Job's tears.

Materials needed:

3 x 5-inch fabric (cotton is recommended)
Sewing machine, thread, pins, scissors

Instructions:

1. Fold fabric in half, right sides together
2. Sew a ¼ inch seam along the top edge of fabric with a running stitch. Secure one end with knot or backstitch.
3. Sew along one side of fabric with a running stitch. Pull fabric to gather. Knot the end. It should look like #4 below.
4. Turn bag right side out, fold the open edge inside about ¼ inch. Knot a piece of thread and hand sew a running stitch around the opening by hand, leaving enough thread so we can pull to gather and tie after filling. If using a machine stitch, no need to knot, just leave each end long enough so we can pull to gather and tie after filling.
5. Finished product, empty bag on the left, filled and tied bag on the right.

