

Make a woolly thistle!

You will need:

- Green wool
- Purple wool
- Scissors
- A safety pin (if wearing it)
- A rectangle of card or something to wrap your wool around
- A green chenille stick (if you intend to wear your thistle, half will be enough)



1. Take your object and wrap the purple wool around it about 10 times, leaving both cut ends at the top of your thistle.



2. Then wrap the green wool over the top of the purple wool about 15 times, or enough to cover the purple. Again, make sure both cut ends are at the top of your thistle.



3. Thread the chenille stick through the bottom of your thistle until you have it in the middle. Then twist it together all the way to the end to hold the wool in place.



4. Slide your thistle head carefully off the card or object you have wrapped it round so it keeps its shape.



5. About a third of the way up the thistle head from the chenille stick, wrap some green wool around the head tightly and tie it off to create the rounded section of your thistle head.



6. Cut open all the loops at the top of your thistle head.



7. Then trim the ends of the wool as you would when making a pom-pom to get an even length.

You can use a safety pin threaded through the rounded head of the thistle to wear it on your clothing.

This activity is part of our Once Upon a Scotland resource, the 2026 edition of the Out and About series. Why not check it out for some more Scottish themed activities!

