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Conference Creature Tutorial, narrated by Olivia

So, to get started, there's a few things that you will need to make your own Conference Creature. The first is some type of yarn in whatever color you want. The bigger your yarn, the bigger your project will end up. The second is a crochet hook. You can usually find the size printed on it. Honestly, I just use whatever size I have available, although you can be strategic with what size you want. You'll also need some scissors, and finally some stuffing.

To start, you want to grab hold of one end of the yarn, leaving a bit of a tail. Wrap it around your fingers and then pull through to make a slipknot. It should end up just being a circle where you can slide one end of yarn [up and down]. And then you want to put it over your hook to get started. I like to wrap the yarn around my fingers like this [looped over the middle finger]. It's important to stay mindful of your tension, or how tight the yarn is between your finger and the hook. Tighter tension means a smaller project.

Instead of starting with a magic ring, which I think is difficult, I like to just chain two. So you'll just get some yarn on your hook and then pull it through the loop. Once you've done that twice, locate the stitch that's furthest away from your hook, and that's where you will start the next round.

For your first single crochet, you can just insert your hook into the stitch, pull over some yarn, and then pull over yarn again through the two loops on your hook. Once you finish your first round, it will look something like this [a circle with stitches around it]. There might be a sort of gap in the middle. You can just pull on that thread to tighten it up. And then you'll start in the first single crochet of the last round for your next round.

And here, every time you perform an increase, you'll do your next single crochet in the same stitch that you just used instead of moving to the next one.

Here I'm having a little bit of trouble getting my hook through the stitches. This is something that can happen if your tension is too tight or if you have too large of a hook.

Round six is nice because you get a break from increasing, and you get to just go around.

So, once you finish your first 10 stitches of round seven, it's time for you to make one of the ears. You're going to work only in the front loop, which is the loop of the single crochet that's furthest away from you. So you can sort of pull it apart to see, and you're going to want to have two loops on your hook when you go in.

Here I have to undo some stitches, because I made a mistake.

For the half double crochet, you'll just pull through all three loops on your hook at once. And for the full double crochet, you'll pull through the first two loops, yarn over again, and pull through again. When it comes to the triple crochet and making the ears, you'll have to have three loops on your hook [when you start the stitch]. And you'll pull through three times, doing two loops each time. And that's the first of the ears done.

Now I've gotten to the point where it's time to make one of the legs. I know because I'm right, sort of, in between the ears at the bottom of the creature here. I don't usually count very well, so I just try to judge it by vision, and this is where I'm going to start one of those legs. So you'll just keep adding sort of double crochets onto your hook until you have five or six loops, and then you will just yarn over and then pull through all of those to finish making one of the legs.

For rounds 11 through 16, you're just going all the way around with single crochet.

And then I know it is time for me to make the next leg once I have finished round 16 and I'm aligned with the previous leg. So then you'll just do another popcorn stitch.

When it comes time for you to do your first decrease, you're going to return to using just part of the single crochet: just one loop, like we did for the ears. I like to use the front one. And then you'll grab two front loops onto your hook and then continue your stitch as normal.

Here's where I like to start stuffing [in round 20]. You can continue stuffing until you get to the end of the project.

In round 22, you should decrease until there's no hole in your creature. I usually mess this up, so I kind of keep going around until it's closed.

Once you've finished crocheting around, you can start working on the tail. We'll just return to chaining, which is how we started in the very beginning. And you can make as many chains as you want depending on how long you want the tail to be. Once you reach your desired tail length—I did 10 for this one—you can just turn back around and then single crochet all the way back down to the creature.

Once you're finished, you can go ahead and cut that thread. I will then typically just tie it into a knot to be more secure. But then, you've essentially got your creature!

For my version of the creature, you'll also need two additional materials I forgot to mention at the beginning, which is a sewing needle and some black yarn.

You can finish the two [loose] threads that you have simply by threading it through the needle and then pulling it through the body of the creature. This isn't the most thorough approach, but it's something that works for me. Once you've finished sewing in the ends, your creature will be nice and neat, and ready to receive some eyes.

To sew on the eyes, I simply cut a pretty good length of black yarn, and then I thread it through where I want the eyes to be. I sort of go back and forth over the same stitch until the eye pops out as much as I want it to. And then once I'm done with the first eye, I simply thread my needle so that it goes underneath the creature, and then I do the same thing on the other side. You can follow the same process as before for weaving in the black yarn.

And now you've finished your very own creature!