
Eat Your Fruits & Veggies Crochet-Along with Twinkie Chan

Chapter 1 - Crocheted Potato

Crocheted Potato

Introduction & Materials

(upbeat music) - Hi, it's Twinkie. I'm gonna show you how to crochet a funny little potato. A potato is probably not something you would normally be inclined to crochet 'cause they're not super cute, you would think, but look how adorable these turned out. I originally designed these for my two-year-old nephew to include in his play food set to teach him about fruits and veggies, and I found out they're actually really fun to make, and I'll show you how. We're going to work the potato with a few basic crochet techniques such as magic circle, slip stitch, the single crochet stitch. I'm gonna show you how to increase and decrease. The final skill we're gonna learn is how to turn a perfectly round shape into this fun lumpy bumpy shape. For the potato, you'll need a small amount of polyester stuffing, about two yards of a dark brown yarn, and about 25 yards of a goldeny mustard yarn. These are both Lion Brand Vanna's Choice. This is Chocolate, and this is Mustard. You'll need an H hook, a small wooden stick or pencil to help you stuff stuffing into a small opening, a small pair of scissors, a tapestry needle, stitch markers or a small piece of scrap yarn in a contrasting color. And don't forget to print out your PDF pattern.

Potato

- We're going to start our potato with a magic circle. Put the tail of the yarn at the bottom of your hand. Grab the working end and wrap it over the top of your first two fingers. Bring it all the way up and cross over that first piece of yarn. We're gonna pick up our H hook and stick it into the back of your hand underneath this loop of yarn. You're gonna pick up the working yarn with your hook. Here's the tricky part. This is the magic ring where your two fingers are and you wanna make sure to preserve that ring. So you're gonna remove your fingers, you're going to pick up the working yarn just as if you were going to start crocheting, and make sure to capture this twist between your thumb and your third finger. You're gonna yarn over and this is your first chain one. Round one is simply working six single crochets into this ring. To work a single crochet, insert your hook into the desired stitch, yarn over, pull through one, yarn over, and pull through two. Again, for the single crochet, insert your hook into the next stitch, or the desired stitch, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through two. I'm going to work four more for a total of six. To close up the magic circle just tug on this yarn tail. And now you're ready to begin round two. But first I'm going to get my scrap yarn to use as a stitch marker and all you're going to do is lay that in front of the stitch you just worked. So you're just gonna go like this. For round two we're going to increase, and to work an increase you're just going to work two single crochets into one stitch. So for the first increase I'm gonna work one single crochet, and then a second single crochet in that same space. You're going to repeat that all the way around a total of six times. At the end of round two, you should have 12 stitches. Before beginning the next round, I'm gonna flip up my stitch marker to keep my place, and for round three we're going to keep increasing. This time we're going to work one increase, so that's two single crochets in the same stitch, and then one single crochet evenly. You're gonna repeat that six times all the way around. So one increase and then one single crochet. At the

end of round three you should have 18 stitches all the way around. In round four we're going to work an increase and then two single crochets and repeat that six times around for a total of 24 stitches. For round five we're going to work one increase and then three single crochets a total of six times, and at the end of round five you should have 30 stitches. For rounds six through 15 you're just gonna work a single crochet evenly around which means one single crochet per each stitch. - [Woman] Do you, um, do your own nails yourself? - Do I do my own nails myself? Yes, I do and I'm terrible at it. It's like a murder scene on here the night before. - [Woman] How about your clothes, thrifted, vintagey dresses? - Shop on Etsy. Vintage! There was a hole in it this morning, I sewed it up. You can't tell, right? When I was a little kid I loved potatoes and my dad said that I should be shipped off to the UK because of my potato love. I'm about to begin round 16 and I'm noticing in flipping up my stitch marker that I'm kind of running out of yarn. It's not a problem to just pull it out and start over again if your yarn ended up being a little short like mine. So just lay it in front of the stitch you just worked and then continue. For round 16 we're going to start decreasing and I'm gonna show you to work an invisible decrease. You're gonna insert your hook into the front loop of the next stitch and then insert your hook into the front loop of the following stitch, yarn over and pull through two loops, yarn over and pull through two loops. You can see the decrease is created because you took two stitches from the previous round and created one new stitch. The rest of that motif is three single crochets evenly. One, two, three. And then you're just gonna repeat that decrease and three single crochets, a total of six times, all the way around. So here's another invisible decrease. Yarn over two, yarn over two, and then three single crochets evenly. At the end of round 16, you should have 24 stitches. At the beginning of round 17 I'm gonna flip up my stitch marker. And the decreasing motif here is one invisible decrease, and then two single crochets evenly. You're gonna repeat that a total of six times and at the end of round 17 your stitch count should be 18 stitches all the way around. And that's when I like to start stuffing the potato. Going to pull out my hook and then grab some stuffing. You wanna stuff it fairly firmly so it keeps its shape. You're going to keep stuffing as you keep crocheting, so don't worry about this being your last chance to stuff. You don't wanna overstuff it 'cause then it'll be difficult to keep working, so just get enough in there where it feels pretty firm and then we're gonna keep going. For round 18 you're going to work one decrease and one single crochet, and repeat that motif six times all the way around for a total of 12 stitches. And then for round 19 you're going to invisible decrease six times all the way around for a total of six stitches. To start closing up the potato, we're going to slip stitch to the next stitch to join. And slip stitch is simply inserting your hook into the desired stitch, yarning over, and pulling through both loops on the hook. You're going to break off, give yourself about eight inches of yarn to work with, and then yarn over one more time and pull the yarn tail all the way through. Give that a tug. Can pop out your stitch marker. And I like to add a little bit more stuffing at the end and this is where your small stick or your pencil comes into play. So take a little bit more stuffing. And since the opening is so small, you kinda wanna ball it up a little bit if you can to help compact it a bit. And then I use the pencil eraser to guide the stuffing in. To close up this hole we're gonna take our tapestry needle and string that yarn tail on and we're going to weave this needle through the last six stitches. So I'm going to use the outside loops only and come from the inside to the outside. Pull to close and then tie a knot to secure. I'm going to weave my needle through a couple stitches to secure that yarn tail. And then to hide the yarn tail in a 3D object, just poke your needle into the same space your yarn is coming out of and you can pop it out anywhere on the project, give it a tug, snip it really close, and the yarn tail just disappears inside. So now we have this pretty smooth shape but it doesn't quite look like a potato yet, so we're gonna jump into

one of my favorite fun techniques, it's really easy to make this nice and lumpy. I strung about a yard of brown yarn on my tapestry needle because that's the longest length I'm comfortable with using at one time. And just put your needle into the potato anywhere to start and come out anywhere to start, it doesn't matter. And pull that all the way through. Give yourself enough of a tail to tie a knot later, but you're just going to ignore this tail for now. And what you're gonna do is just work some long stitches horizontally, so maybe like three or four stitches. Like one, two, three, four. And just, you can feel your needle picking up some stuffing behind there which is great, that helps create the shape that we want, and come back through the same hole we started at and give it a good tug. Might need to tug on that initial tail, too. It's this tugging that's gonna help create our irregular shape we're looking for. So I give this two or three passes. Give everything a nice tug. And on my last pass I'm going to bring my tapestry needle all the way to the opposite side of the potato. I think the farther away you travel from your original stitch the more you can give it a good tug and kind of start misshaping the potato here. So you can start seeing it's getting a lumpy. You're just gonna keep doing that all the way around in different spots. Use your own artistic eye. I work maybe about a dozen of these stitches for the potato, but you can kind of figure that out as you go. Just as a reminder, you want your stitches to be horizontal and you can just make sure you're doing that by staying in the same round with your needle. I think this gives the potato a more pleasing look. I'm starting to run out of yarn here and that's totally not a problem. All you wanna do is finish your last eye that you can with the remaining yarn that you have and just tie a knot and hide the ends and just start a new piece of yarn on your tapestry needle and keep going. It's really easy. So you can just tie a knot into the eye you just worked. I like to weave this through a couple stitches nearby just to secure the yarn tail. And then again you can just hide this yarn inside the potato. So if you wanted to put in a little more across the top here just string some more brown yarn and just keep going like you did before. Think I'll just do one more and it's looking pretty potato-tastic to me. And then you can just tie off all your ends the same way I did that previously. To tie off and weave in these beginning tails, I like to travel the yarn tail to an eye that I can tie a knot against just so you're not tying a dark brown yarn against a goldeny mustard background. And then you can just repeat that with however many beginning yarn tails that you have. I had two so I have to do this one. And your amazing potato is finished! You can have so much fun with this really easy pattern just by switching up the colors. You can have a russet potato, a new potato, and before you know it, you're on your way to having a fun and unique potato collection

Chapter 2 - Crocheted Strawberries and Blueberries

Series Overview

- I really like giving myself and other people permission to have fun with their crafting. That's where the color and the food and toys and critters comes from. I just think it's that joy you feel when you're young and having fun and you just don't care and you don't have to deal with grown-up stuff. Hi, I'm Twinkie Chan. I'm a crochet designer, author, and blogger. I am known mostly for my food-themed wearable crochet, such as cupcake hats and hamburger scarves. But I thought it was time to start getting healthy and make some fun fruits and vegetables. In this series, you're going to learn a handful of basic crochet techniques such as magic circle, single crochet, and increasing and decreasing. We'll also cover color changes, surface techniques, and seaming. I have fun with these projects because a lot of them work up in about an hour and you can use your own favorite colors to customize your own collection. Before you know it, you'll have a delicious array of fruits and vegetables for a fun play food set or a beautiful decoration in your home. Or, if you're more

adventurous, you can even wear them. Keep coming back throughout the series, because with each fruit and veggie you'll get some behind-the-scenes moments with me. Strawberries are like the best part of the fruit salad. So yes, I do eat them often. I'm a lazy person, I'm not making lemonade. I eat soup out of the can, you know that. (laughs) Now everyone knows that. You know what they say about an apple a day. (light music)

Crocheted Strawberries and Blueberries

Introduction & Materials

(bright music) - I'm going to show you how to crochet some adorable blueberries and strawberries. These are great projects for beginners and an awesome stash buster. These projects come together with single crochet stitch. And I'm also going to show you how to increase and decrease. Also how to work a slip stitch. And then we're gonna sew everything together. To make your berries you're going to need some straight pins, a small pair of scissors, an H hook, and a G hook, a tapestry needle, and some stitch markers or I'm just going to be using a piece of scrap yarn in a contrasting color. For your yarn needs for the blueberry you can use your tiny balls of scrap yarn that you have around, but I'll be using three yards of a blue worsted weight yarn. This is Lion Brand Vanna's Choice in colonial blue. For the strawberry you'll need twelve yards of a red worsted weight yarn. This is Lion Brand Vanna's Choice in scarlet. And you'll also need about three yards, Vanna's Choice in fern. Oh, and don't forget to print out your PDF pattern.

Blueberry

- Let's get started with our blueberries. For small projects like this I like to use yarn for stuffing instead of regular polyester stuffing. Before you begin pull out about 12 inches of yarn, which we'll be using later. And then we're going to begin with a magic circle. And I'm going to show you how to do that. With your long tail coming out towards the bottom of your hand pull on your working yarn, and wrap it around your top two fingers like this. And then cross over on top of that other piece of yarn. You want to take your H hook, and pick up the back of this yarn loop behind your hand. And pick up your working yarn like this. Here's the slightly tricky part. You want to make sure you maintain this loop that your fingers are in. And you want to maintain this double twist you just created. And start putting your working yarn into your hand as if you were working like normal. And pinch this twist with your thumb and your third finger. Then, you just yarn over, and that's your first chain one. Round one of the blueberry is simply to work six single crochet into this magic circle. To work a single crochet, insert your hook into the desired stitch, yarn over, and pull through one. Yarn over, and pull through two. I'll show you that one more time for single crochet. Insert your hook into the desired stitch. Yarn over, pull through one. Yarn over, and pull through two. So, I've created two single crochets here, and I need to work four more into this magic circle. Now you're going to want to close the magic circle. So tug on this yarn tail, pretty firmly, because you want to close up that little hole. And we're not going to be joining our rounds, so you're going to hop right into round two, where we're going to work our first increase. To work the increase you're simply just going to work two single crochets into the same stitch. So, my first stitch of round two is gonna go right in here. So, one single crochet, and then work another single crochet into the same stitch. And the next stitch I'm just going to work one single crochet. You're gonna repeat that two more times around. You're gonna work an increase, so two single crochets here in the same stitch, and then one

single crochet. I'm gonna repeat that pattern one more time. Your increase, and then a regular single crochet. For round three you're simply going to work evenly around, which means one single crochet stitch in each stitch for a total of nine stitches. Now we're going to begin round four, which is our decrease round. And I'm going to show you how to work an invisible decrease. Insert your hook into the front loop only of the next stitch. And then insert your hook into the front loop only of the following stitch. Yarn over, and pull through the first two loops. Yarn over, and pull through the last two loops. And you've just turned two stitches into one stitch for your decrease. The next stitch is just one single crochet. And you're gonna repeat the decrease and the single crochet two more times. Here's another invisible decrease. And then a single crochet. I need to work one more set of those. But before this hole gets too small I'm going to use my yarn tail from the beginning to stuff the blueberry. I also just wanted to point out that I prefer my stuffed choice to have the right side of my work showing on the outside. The right side of your work is the side that's facing you while you're working. And the wrong side is the back of your work. So make sure that right side is facing the outside of the berry. To use the yarn tail to create my stuffing I just wind the yarn around my finger around, and around, and around, so it's easier to stuff inside. And then you just kind of scoop that right in here. It's easier just to pull out your hook so you can kind of get up in there. It should be pretty firm, so don't worry if it's a little hard to wrangle in there. If it's too much yarn you can always trim it as well. And round four, I have one more decrease to work. Here's one more invisible decrease, and then my last single crochet. Now we're going to slip stitch to the next stitch to join as we complete our blueberry. To work a slip stitch insert your hook into the desired stitch. Yarn over, and pull through both loops on your hook. We're gonna break off the yarn. Give yourself about six to eight inches to work with. And then to break off, yarn over one more time, and pull the yarn tail all the way through. To close up this hole, grab your tapestry needle, and thread that through. And we're going to weave through the remaining six stitches. You want to go from the inside to the outside in these outside loops only. This would be the front loops of your work, so make sure you go around all six stitches. And then all you have to do is give it a tug, and it closes up the hole. To secure this end I'm gonna tie a little knot. To make sure this little tail doesn't go anywhere I'm gonna weave through just like two or three stitches. Then, to hide your yarn tail in a 3D object all you have to do is pop it through your piece, come out anywhere else, give the yarn a slight tug, trim it close. And the tail just disappears right into your blueberry, and that's it.

Strawberry Body

- The strawberry starts off the exact same way as the blueberry so you're going to work a magic circle, a chain one, and six single crochet into that magic ring and that's where I'm at right now. Step two is going to be a series of increases, so we're not going to go round by round you're just going to keep increasing and increasing and increasing and I will show you that pattern. Our increase motif is going to be one increase, that's two single crochet into the same stitch. And then just working three single crochets evenly. One, two, three. Work this one increase and three single crochets 12 times around and around and at the end of all those increases you should have 18 stitches all the way around. Now it's looking a little bit like a cone and we're going to start step three which is our decrease round and I'm going to use my stitch marker here just to help keep my place, so if you're using a piece of scrap yarn you can just lay that in front of the stitch you just worked. And then our motif for step three is one invisible decrease. And then one single crochet. You're going to repeat that six times all the way around until you hit your stitch marker. Now at this point before my hole gets too small I'm going to stuff my strawberry with some red yarn, so what

I'm going to do is break off about a yard or an arm length of yarn to keep crocheting with later and then I'm going to create a little stuffing ball by wrapping this yarn about 20 times around two fingers. If you need more or less you can always adjust that later too. So kind of tame this yarn end and put this into your strawberry. It should feel pretty firm. Stick my hook back in. And flip up my stitch marker to help keep my place and for step four you're just going to work six invisible decreases all the way around. Your stitch count at the end of step four should be six. And then you're going to finish the strawberry the same way as the blueberry, you're going to slip stitch to the next stitch and then break off and use your tapestry needle to weave through the remaining stitches. (mumbling) Strawberries are like the best part of the fruit salad, so yes I do eat them often. (mumbling) You know what strawberry ice cream is not my fave actually, I'm all about the mint chip. Strawberry ice cream is cute though because it's pink, pink is good.

Strawberry Top

- Now we're going to make our strawberry super cute by giving it a strawberry top. You wanna grab your green yarn, and we're going to switch to our G hook, and you're gonna start off with about an eight-inch yarn tail, which we'll be using later. Put a slipknot on your hook, and you're going to begin with a chain four. So work one, two, three, and four. We're actually gonna start with the strawberry stem. You're going to work three slip stitches, so skip the first chain, and then work a slip stitch in the next chain. Be sure to pick up two of those loops. Yarn over, and then pick up the next two loops. And here's our last slip stitch. I just think that working through both loops here for the stem makes the stem kind of look more tight and more compact. For round one, you're going to chain two, and you're going to skip the first chain and work six single crochets into the second chain. One, two, three, four, five, and six. You're going to flip this stem to the front of your work, and slip stitch to the first single crochet of round one. So at the end of round one, you should have six single crochets and this funny little stem sticking out in front. To work your leaves in round two, you're going to chain four. One, two, three, and four. You're gonna skip the first chain, and then one slip stitch each into the next two chains. Just work in one loop of the chain here, it keeps the leaves more flat. So that's two slip stitches. And in the last chain, work a single crochet. And then you're gonna slip stitch into the next stitch here, in round one, to join. And that's one leaf. You're going to repeat that six times total for six leaves, and then you're going to break off, leaving about 24 inches for sewing the strawberry top to your strawberry. I'm going to first make sure that my beginning yarn tail is on top so I can easily access it later. Then you're gonna grab your strawberry and your tapestry needle. So you're putting that 24-inch yarn tail onto your tapestry needle. The stem looks off-center, but we're going to deal with that at the end. So take your strawberry, and you kind of wanna eyeball where the stem is gonna go. If it helps you out, you can use some straight pins to secure this down so it doesn't shift about while you're sewing. One is probably enough, since this project is so small. Gonna turn it around and see if it looks even. And then, all I'm going to do is just use like a really simple topstitch to get this strawberry top onto the strawberry. And you don't have to sew down the very tips of the leaves. I think it kind of looks more realistic if the ends of the leaves are curling up a little bit, but that's entirely up to you and how you want your strawberry to look. For the topstitch, it's basically just going back into the berry through both layers and coming out a couple stitches later, and so your stitches are move invisible, when you go back in, don't stray too far away from where your yarn popped out. This really doesn't have to be too precise either on such a small project. Whoops, sorry about that. If your pin is starting to get in the way, you can pop that out after a couple leaves, because it should be pretty secure by now. After you've gone all the way

around, you're just going to tie a knot to secure. Can weave that through a couple stitches just to make sure it's not gonna go anywhere. And then, pop the needle back through the berry so you can hide the yarn tail inside of it. Give that a little bit of a tug, and it should disappear right inside. Now we're going to deal with the strawberry stem. So string that beginning yarn tail through your tapestry needle. And you can see it sort of leans to one side, so what I'm attempting to do here is just sew it down so we can center it a little better. It's sort of a cheat, but I think like, if it makes your berry look good, you can use whatever steps you need to make it look cute. So we're just gonna make something lopsided look a little bit more centered. And I don't really have a specific technique for this, I just like to run a couple stitches through the base of this to try to coax it more toward the center. You can kind of experiment with that, I just kind of go kinda back and forth and in and out with my needle. And you can see it's getting more centered. You're kind of building up a base for the stem with some quick stitches. I think this is looking pretty good and pretty stable now, so I'm gonna tie another knot to secure. Run that through a couple stitches so it doesn't go anywhere, and then, pop that through the berry. Our berries worked up super quickly, and it was really fun. They make a great table display or play food, but if you have a more whimsical side you can also make jewelry like hair clips and necklaces and have just a really berrylicious outfit.

Chapter 3 - Crocheted Radish

Crocheted Radish

Introduction & Materials

(light music) - Hi, it's Twinkie. I'm gonna show you how to crochet this cute little radish. I originally developed this pattern to be worn as a lariat scarf with super long stems that wrapped around your neck, but for those moments when you might not be inclined to wear your vegetables, I adapted that pattern so that we can make this adorable radish plush toy. For our radish, we're going to go over some basic crochet techniques such as magic circle and the single crochet stitch. I'll also show you how to increase, decrease, change colors in the middle of a project, and I'm also going to show you how to work the half triple crochet stitch. For a single radish, you'll need about eight yards of a pink worsted weight yarn, about 12 yards of a green worsted weight yarn, and about four yards of a white worsted weight yarn. These are all Lion Brand Vanna's Choice in Raspberry, Kelly, and White. You'll also need some polyester stuffing, a small wooden stick or pencil to help you with the stuffing, a G hook, an H hook, a small pair of scissors, a tapestry needle, stitch markers or a small piece of yarn in a contrasting color, and don't forget to print out your PDF pattern.

Radish

- The radish is essentially a little ball, and we're going to start our ball at the top here of the radish. We're going to change color, and then later we're going to add on the stems. But to begin a radish, we're going to start with magic circle, and I'm going to show you how to do that. Lay the yarn across your hand with the yarn tail coming out toward the bottom of your hand like this. Grab the working yarn. Wrap it around the top of your first two fingers and lay it across that first piece of yarn. And pick up your H hook. Stick it in the back of your hand behind this first loop. And then you're gonna pick up the working yarn with the hook. The magic circle is where your two fingers are, and we're gonna carefully remove these fingers, preserving the circle. Pick up your working yarn like you're about to start crocheting and hold this twist with your thumb and your third finger.

You're gonna yarn over, and this is your chain one for round one. For the rest of round one, you're going to work six single crochets into this magic ring. To work a single crochet, insert your hook into the desired stitch. Yarn over, pull through one. Yarn over and pull through two. Again, the single crochet is insert your hook into the stitch. Yarn over and pull through one. Yarn over and pull through two. I need to work four more single crochets into my magic ring. Two, three, and then four. To close the ring, just give a tug on this yarn tail. We're not going to join our rounds, which means we're going to begin round two right into the first stitch of round one. Round two is an increasing round, and I'm gonna show you how to increase. You insert your hook into this first stitch and work one single crochet. And then you're going to work another single crochet into that exact same stitch. You're going to work a total of six increases all the way around for a total of 12 stitches in this round. Before round three, I'm going to add a stitch marker to help keep my place. To insert your stitch marker, just lay it right in front of the stitch you just worked. Now we're going to start round three. For round three, you're going to work one single crochet increase. So that's two single crochets into one stitch and then one single crochet in the next stitch. Going to repeat that motif a total of six times all the way around. And at the end of round three, you should have 18 stitches. At the end of each round, don't forget to flip your stitch marker over to help keep your place. For round four, we're going to work one increase and then two single crochets evenly. You're gonna repeat that six times all the way around for a total of 24 stitches. For rounds five through seven, you're going to work in single crochet evenly around, and then means you're going to work single crochet in each stitch. But on the last stitch of round seven, we're going to introduce the new color. To begin our color change, you're going to start working the very last stitch of round seven, but you're going to wait on the final pull through. Break off your yarn, and grab white, which is our new color. And we're going to use the new color as the final pull through. I put a slipknot on my crochet hook like this and then pull it through, and now we're ready to begin round eight. Gonna flip up my stitch marker to keep my place. And for round eight, we're just working in single crochet evenly around once more for a total of 24 stitches in white. Before we start the next round, I'm going to pull out my hook, and we're going to go inside the radish and weave in some of these ends. And I'm doing that now before the opening of the radish gets too small. So make sure you don't weave in your stitch marker. Gonna take my tapestry needle. Do the white one first. If you can, you wanna weave your white tail into the white stitches. It will help keep your woven tails more invisible. So you wanna pass it inside your stitch so that the tail is as invisible as possible. And you can see you're inside the stitch when you can't really see the needle on the top or the bottom. And pull that through. Don't pull too tightly. And then to make sure it's secure, you go back in the other direction. So I'm gonna hop over this stitch and pass my needle through those same stitches. Remember, don't pull too tightly. And then you can snip this close. Do the exact same thing with your pink yarn tail. Before I begin round nine, I'm going to flip up my stitch marker to help keep my place. And in round nine, we're going to begin decreasing, and I'm gonna show you how to work an invisible decrease. Pick up the front loop only of the next stitch and then the front loop only of the following stitch. Yarn over and pull through the first two loops, and then yarn over and pull through the last two loops. You can see the decrease is created because we took two stitches from the previous round to create one stitch in the current round. Then you're going to work two single crochets evenly. You're going to repeat this motif a total of six times all the way around. And at the end of round nine, you should have 18 stitches. When you've finished round nine, this is a good point to stop crocheting and start stuffing your project before the opening gets too small. Gonna pull out my crochet hook and grab some stuffing. This particular project looks better the more stuffing you can

get into it, but you will keep stuffing as you work, so you don't wanna overdo it or else it will be very difficult to keep crocheting. So that looks pretty good to me for now. Going to put my hook back into my project. Before beginning the next round, I'm going to slip up my stitch marker. For the last two rounds, we're going to continue decreasing. For round 10, you're going to work one decrease and one single crochet. You're going to repeat that six times all the way around for 12 stitches. Then you probably wanna stuff some more as the opening gets smaller and smaller. For round 11, you're then going to work six invisible decreases all in a row for a total of six stitches. At the end of round 11, I'm going to slip stitch to the next stitch to join. And to slip stitch, you insert your hook into the next stitch. Yarn over and pull through all two loops. I'm gonna give myself about 18 inches of yarn before I break off because we're going to create a little radish tail with that yarn in a bit. To break off then, you're going to yarn over and pull this long yarn tail all the way through until it pops out. We don't need our stitch marker anymore, so you can go ahead and give that a tug to pull it out. I'm gonna weave in this yarn tail through the last six stitches to close up the hole. Before you do your closing up, if you feel like you wanna add a little bit more stuffing, this is the last chance to do so. When the hole is this small, I grab my pencil to help guide the stuffing through. And I also try to roll the stuffing up into a little ball first to help make it more compact and easier to manage. When you start feeling a pretty good amount of resistance against your stick or pencil, that's a pretty good indicator that you've stuffed your project firmly. I think that's pretty good. To weave through the last six stitches with our tapestry needle, work in the front loops only of each stitch and angle your needle going from the inside toward the outside. To close up the hole, just give that yarn tail a slight tug. For this particular project, don't pull too tightly. We're actually going to work through this opening in a little bit. You're gonna tie a small knot to secure. Then remove your tapestry needle. I'm switching to a G hook so it's easier to work through this small opening. Insert this G hook into the opening that we just closed. And pop out in a stitch close by and put the yarn back on your hook with a yarn over. We're going to use some chains to create our short little radish tail. So just keep chaining. And it doesn't really matter how many. The stitch count isn't as important. Just depends on how long you want your radish tail to be. And I like it to be maybe about an inch and 1/2 to two inches long. It's really up to you. That looks pretty good to me. So you just wanna pull that yarn tail all the way through. Clip it with however much yarn you want sticking out the bottom. And then you can weave in your initial yarn tail from here. After stuffing an object when you're weaving in your yarn tails, to hide the tail securely, all you have to do is insert your needle back where your yarn came out from. And you can pop out any space in the project. It doesn't matter where. You give the yarn tail a tug, you clip it close, and then the yarn tail disappears right inside your project. Now we're going to work on the stems. Instead of crocheting a separate piece for our stems and leaves and then sewing them on later, what we're going to do is crochet the stems and leaves directly onto the top of our radish. Begin by taking your H hook and inserting it into the center hole like this. Come out through any space in round one. Grab your green yarn and put it on your hook with a slipknot and pull it through to join. To begin our leaves and stems, you're going to chain 12. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12. Skip this first stitch and then work seven slip stitches evenly. It's really important that you not work your slip stitches too tightly because we are going to go back and work in them. That's two, three, four, five, six, and seven. Chain one and then turn. We're going to be working right back in those slip stitches. Skip the first stitch, and then in the next stitch we're going to work four double crochets. And I will show you how to work a double crochet. You're going to yarn over, insert your hook into the desired stitch. Remember to pick up both loops of this slip stitch, which is why you need to remember to work them pretty loosely. Yarn

over and pull through one. You have three loops on your hook now. Yarn over and pull through two. Yarn over and pull through two. Going to work three more double crochets in the exact same stitch. So yarn over one, insert your hook into the stitch. Yarn over and pull through one. Yarn over and pull through two. Yarn over and pull through two. Going to work two more double crochets in the same stitch. Skip the next stitch and then slip stitch into the following stitch. You're going to skip the next two stitches, and you're going to work 14 half triple crochets on the very end of this stem. To work a half triple crochet, yarn over two times. Insert your hook into the stitch you wanna get into, which is at the tippy top here. You really wanna try to grab two loops to give your stitches a good anchor, which can be rough. Just be patient and work that on. Yarn over and pull through one. Yarn over and pull through two. Yarn over and pull through all three. And that's one half triple crochet. You're gonna work 13 more in the exact same stitch. Yarn over twice. Insert your hook into the stitch. Yarn over one, pull through one. Yarn over two and pull through two. Yarn over and pull through all three. I tend not to have a favorite go-to because I'm really bad at repeating projects over and over. I get bored (laughs lightly) really quickly, so I always wanna think of the next new fun thing. - [Man] Is there anything you're trying to figure out now? - I developed this really cute little prawn to wear as a brooch for a designer I like in Australia. Of course, everyone wants the pattern now, and so I'm fixing that pattern up so it's a little more digestible for everyone to work, and that's probably going to be the next pattern I'll release on my blog. - That's cool. - So everyone can have their own shrimp brooches because who knew that everyone wanted one? (laughs) Surprise! (laughs) Skip the next two stitches, and then slip stitch into the next stitch. If it's hard to see all these chains, just make sure you slip stitch in the exact opposite place of this slip stitch here. You're just creating a little circle with your half triple crochets like so. Gonna skip one stitch and then work four double crochets basically in the same space as your previous four double crochets. That's one, two, three, four. Skip one stitch and slip stitch to the base of your leaf. And we're gonna work back down our original chains here. There should be four chains. So work one slip stitch each for these last four chains. Two, three, four. Slip stitch back into your project. We're still working through the center here, so insert your hook into the center hole and come back out into the stitch next to the one you just worked here. Yarn over and pull through all the loops, and that's one slip stitch. Repeat that again for the next stitch over. So insert your hook into the center hole one more time. Come back out the next stitch. Yarn over and pull through everything on your hook. So you have one complete stem and leaf here. Work two more leaves in the exact same way as the first leaf. When you've finished up your final leaf, we're going to work one more slip stitch to join and finish off this piece. So insert your hook into the center again. You're gonna come through that very first stitch you worked and yarn over everything. Break off your green yarn. Pull this all the way through and weave in these last two yarn tails. Just need to go through a couple of these green stitches. And then to hide the yarn tail, stick your needle through where that yarn was coming out and then pop back out anyplace on the radish. Give that yarn a tug. Clip it close, then it disappears inside. Let's repeat that with the last yarn tail. With this one little project, you learned a ton of wonderful new crochet techniques. You can play with different shades of pink and red and purple for a wonderful variety of colors in your radishes. And look how cute it turned out.

Chapter 4 - Crocheted Apple

Crocheted Apple

Introduction & Materials

(light music) - Hi it's Twinkie let's crochet an apple. You know how you're in the grocery store looking for the perfect apple but they all have little nicks or bruises or lumpy bumpies? We're just going to go ahead and make our perfect specimen. This is a pretty approachable project for beginners, we'll cover some basic crochet techniques, such as magic circle, the single crochet stitch, slip stitch, how to increase and decrease, and at the end I'll show you how to sew on some cute details. For the apple you'll need about one yard of a dark green worsted weight yarn, about two yards of a dark brown worsted weight yarn, and about three yards of a light green worsted weight yarn or you could use red for a red apple. All these colors are Lion Brand Vanna's Choice. This is olive, espresso, and fern. You'll also need a small amount of polyester stuffing, a small wooden stick or pencil to help you with stuffing, a G hook, an H hook, a small pair of scissors, a tapestry needle, stitch markers or a small piece of scrap yarn in a contrasting color, and don't forget to print out your PDF pattern.

Apple

- We're starting at the top of our apple and we get its apple-y shape by slowly decreasing the stitch count, as we go down. Let's start with the magic circle. Lay your green yarn in your hand like this with the yarn tail coming toward the bottom of your hand. Pick up your working yarn, and wrap it over the top of the first two fingers, and cross over that first piece of yarn. Grab the H hook, and insert it into the back of your hand, underneath this loop of yarn. And then pick up the working yarn, with your crochet hook. The magic circle is where your first two fingers are here. You gonna carefully remove these fingers, preserving the circle, pick up your working yarn, as if you're about to crochet, and secure this twist between your thumb and your third finger yarn over, for your first chain, of round one. For round one, you'll be working six single crochets into this magic circle. To work a single crochet, insert your hook into this magic ring. And yarn over, and pull through one. Yarn over, and pull through two. Once again, for single crochet, insert your hook into the desired stitch, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through two. I need to work four more single crochets into the ring. One, two, three, four. To close the ring, tug on this yarn tail. And that'll close right up. Before I begin round two, I'm gonna grab my stitch marker, and lay it right in front of the stitch that I just worked. We won't be joining our rounds. So we'll start round two, right into the first stitch of round one. For round two, we'll be working increases which means we'll be working two single crochets into one stitch. That's one single crochet, and then the exact same stitch, work another single crochet. Repeat that a total of six times, all the way around at the end of round two, your stitch count should be 12. Before beginning round three, flip up your stitch marker to keep your place. For round three, we'll work one increase. That's two single crochets in one stitch, and then one single crochet. Repeat that pattern six times, all the way around for a total of 18 stitches. For round four, you're going to work one increase, and two single crochets. And repeat that six times all the way around for 24 stitches. And round five, you're going to actually only be working four increases for the round. You'll be working one increase, and then five single crochets evenly. So repeat that four times, all the way around and your stitch count will be 28. For round six, you're going to work one increase, and then six single crochets evenly. Four times, all the way around, for a stitch count of 32. For round seven through 11, you're just gonna keep crocheting evenly around in single crochet, and working evenly means, you work one single crochet per each stitch. In round 12, we'll begin decreasing to start shaping our apple, before I start that round, I'm going to flip up my stitch marker. Just like I've been doing after all my previous rounds. And to work in invisible

decrease, insert your hook into the front loop only of the first stitch, and then insert your hook into the front loop only of the following stitch. Yarn over, and pull through two loops. Yarn over, and pull through two loops. So this decrease is created by using two stitches from the previous round to create one stitch in our current round. Then we're going to work 14 single crochets evenly. That's one, two, three, and fourteen. We're going to work another invisible decrease, so that's, your hook goes into the front loop of the next stitch, and the front loop of the following stitch. Yarn over and pull through two. Yarn over and pull through two. And then once again, it's 14 single crochets evenly, all the way around. At the end of round 12, you should have 30 stitches all the way around. For rounds 13 through 14, simply work in single crochet evenly. And for round 15, you'll work one decrease, and eight single crochets evenly. Repeat that three times, all the way around, for stitch count of 27. For rounds 16 through 17, work in single crochet evenly around once more. At round 18, you'll work one decrease, and then seven single crochets evenly. Repeat that three times all the way around for stitch count of 24. For round 19, you'll work single crochet evenly around. - [Man] Tell us about your puppies. - I have two dogs, Bibby and Bunny. Bibby is half Shar Pei, half Basset Hound so she's super wrinkly and stinky. And Bunny is some sort of Mini Pincher mix. So she's tiny and barky. They get in a lot of trouble. But they're super cute. Bunny is smaller but she's kind of the ring leader, so she's taught Bibby how to bark at everything. She's taught Bibby how to like dig holes in the yard and like eat the wood in the fence. Like they ate a hole to our neighbor's yard, which is really bad. Bunny taught her how to destroy her toys (laughs) so there's like stuffing everywhere all the time. - [Woman] Do they eat any of your crochet or your yarn? - You know what, they got in trouble one time for getting into the yarn, and like, there were just, there were just open skeins everywhere. It was like the scene of some sort of horrible, craft comedy movie where your dogs just. (blowing air through mouth) I don't know what it was about that one time but I don't keep it locked, I don't keep the yarn locked up or anything now, and they don't seem to bother it. They just really like hard plastic pieces, so if there are safety eyes on anything, they'll wanna chew the safety eyes out of dolls and stuff so, but otherwise, they leave the craft stuff alone. Do I make them toys? Well, they're such furious chewers that you know if you spent like three hours making a toy it would be dead (man laughing) in like 15 minutes so I think that would just be really sad. - [Woman] Do you draw often? - I am not good at that. (laughs) You saw me draw, within the blind contour live stream that we did a couple weeks ago. Yeah, it's not.. - [Woman] But you sketch before you create your projects, right? - I do, I use the word sketch very loosely. But it's mostly, when I'm designing, I'm just trying to block out shapes basically and color so, I'm just like this is a circle, and this is gonna be a triangle so, it's nothing very detailed. Or as like skilled. It's just really basic. Before I begin round 20, I'm going to start stuffing my project, as our opening is getting smaller and smaller. Right now, you're project looks kind of longer and skinnier than an apple, but don't worry about it. That's what it's supposed to look like for now. And pull my crochet hook out. And make sure my stitch marker is outside. Gonna grab some stuffing. You want to stuff this project fairly firmly so it'll be nice and round. That will also start helping the apple shape to come through and it'll start looking a little fatter and a little less long and skinny. Continue stuffing your apple as you keep working ahead. For round 20, you're going to work a decrease and then two single crochets evenly. Repeat that six times all the way around for 18 stitches. For round 21, work one decrease, and then one single crochet. Repeat that six times all the way around for stitch count of 12. For round 22, you're going to work six invisible decreases all in a row, for a final stitch count of six. At the end of round 22, slip stitch to the next stitch to join. To work a slip stitch, insert your hook into the desired stitch, yarn over, and pull through both loops on your hook. Going to break off my yarn, giving myself about a

yard to work with. I'm gonna yarn over, and pull this long yarn tail all the way through. I don't need my stitch marker anymore. So give that a tug to pull it out. Grab your tapestry needle. And string this yarn tail through. First we're going to see if we wanna put anymore stuffing in here before closing up the hole. If you want to put in a little bit more, use your wooden stick or pencil to help push the stuffing through the center. And also, try to ball up the stuffing a little bit to help tame it and compact it so that you can fit it through the small opening. When you feel some resistance against the bottom of your pencil or stick, you know that you've been stuffing it pretty firmly, and that's probably where you can stop. To close up this hole, we're going to weave the yarn tail through these remaining six stitches. Work in the front loops only, and point your needle from the inside, going outside in each stitch. Pull on that to close the opening. And then tie a small knot to secure. Our project looks a little bit more like a pear than an apple right now, but that's okay. I'm gonna show you an easy way to shape your pieces and also to create a cute dimple at the top and bottom of your apple. With the long yarn tail still threaded on to your tapestry needle, insert the needle into the center of the hole that you just closed up, you're going to travel the needle all the way back through the top of the apple, and since you stuffed this pretty firmly, you're gonna have to kind of squish the two ends of the apple toward each other and try to get this needle to come out of this center hole at the top. I did a really good job stuffing this, so it's a little difficult but just keep like pinching the apple together like this to retrieve your needle. It's okay if it feels like you're man handling your project a little bit. That's the whole point of this step. So when you give a tug on this yarn tail, you're gonna create that cute little dimple for the bottom of your fruit. We need to do the same thing for the top. So take your needle, and insert it into any stitch next to where the yarn's coming out. Pop it back all the way through the center again. And try to make the needle come out the bottom. If you can't hit exact center, don't stress out about it. You just wanna kind of get it as close to the middle as possible. Pull that yarn tail all the way through. So the more you tug on this, the squashier and dimply-er your apple's going to get. So you can use you're own artistic eye to decide how long you want your apple or how squishy and chubby you want your apple. Kind of squish the stuffing around. Kind of mold it. Check out how you like the way everything looks. When you're at the yarn tension that you like, you're gonna tie this off with a knot. To secure my yarn end, I weave through a couple stitches down here. And to hide my yarn tail, just pop your needle back through where your yarn's coming out, and exit anywhere else on the project, it doesn't matter where. It's stuffed so firmly, this part's a little difficult, so you don't have to travel the needle quite so far. Pop it out right there. Give your yarn tail a little tug, snip it close, and the yarn tail disappears inside the apple.

Apple Stem

- For the apple stem and leaf, we'll be switching to a G-hook, it's a smaller hook so that our stitches will be smaller. With brown for the stem, give yourself about eight inches of yarn as a yarn tail and then put a slip knot on your hook. Chain five. One, two, three, four and five. For row one, skip the first chain and the next chain, you'll work one single crochet and also in the same stitch, one slip stitch. For the remaining three chains, just work on slip stitch evenly but try to pick up two loops instead of just one from each chain. This will help make your stem look more round and more tight as opposed to being looser and more flat. To finish the stem, just give yourself about another eight inches of yarn to work with and then break that off by yarning over and pulling the yarn tail all the way through. So this is the top of your stem and here's the base. To start the leaf, we're gonna grab our dark green yarn, give yourself about an eight-inch yarn tail again, put your slip knot on your

hook and then we're gonna chain five. One, two, three, four and five. Around one, skip the first chain and then work one slip stitch, one single crochet and then a half double crochet. For the half double crochet, yarn over, insert your hook into the desired stitch, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through all three. In the last chain work one slip stitch. Now we're working in the opposite side of the foundation chain. Work one slip stitch and then another half double crochet in the next stitch, one single crochet and then a slip stitch into the last chain. This is the tip of your leaf and this is the base. Break this off, yarn over and pull the yarn tail through. Weave in this yarn end and save this yarn end for sewing later. I'm gonna pass this invisibly through a couple stitches. You can tell it's passing through invisibly because you can't really see the needle on either side and to make sure that yarn tail doesn't go anywhere, we're gonna pass it back in the other direction. Don't pull too tightly and then clip that close. Here's your leaf. Now I'll show you how to sew your stem and your leaf to the top of your apple. You can take either one of these eight-inch yarn tails and string it onto your tapestry needle. Pick up a stitch really close to the center of the top of your apple here. And to pass the needle in and then out as close to the center as possible, bring your needle back out like this. Gonna keep this yarn tail on my needle but you can just tie these two yarn tails together into a square knot to help secure the stem. Then you could just weave both of these tails into your apple to secure them and hide them. So I'm going to pass my needle through a couple of stitches to secure and then I'm just gonna pop that back through to hide it inside the apple just like we did before. Cut that trim and then weave and hide this yarn tail in the same way. Grab your leaf and string the yarn tail onto your needle. I like to weave my yarn through to the bottom of the leaf here, so I think it would look nicer once you sew it on. And then in a similar way, pick up a stitch really close to the center of the top and pull that yarn tail through And kinda see if you like the placement. If you don't like the placement you can just pull it out and try again. I think that looks pretty good so I'm going to make sure I go back in to the bottom of my leaf while I'm tying a knot to secure it. And weave through a couple of stitches to secure this tail. Oops, need to find the bottom here. And then pop that through to hide the yarn tail. (scissor snips) You know what they say about an apple a day. (crunch) (light music) (laughs)

Chapter 5 - Crocheted Eggplant

Crocheted Eggplant

Introduction & Materials

(upbeat music) - Hi, it's Twinkie. While the eggplant isn't my favorite vegetable to eat, I do love crocheting them because I get to use up some beautiful purple yarn. The eggplant is crocheted in two separate pieces which we will sew together, and we'll cover some basic crochet techniques, such as working the magic circle, slip stitch, single crochet, increasing and decreasing. For the eggplant, you'll need about 50 yards of a purple worsted weight yarn, and about 10 yards of a green worsted weight yarn. These are both Lion brand Vanna's Choice, in purple and in fern. You'll also need a small amount of polyester stuffing, a couple straight pins, a G-hook and an H-hook, a small wooden stick or a pencil to help you with stuffing, a small pair of scissors, a tapestry needle, stitch markers or a small piece of yarn in a contrasting color, and don't forget to print out your PDF pattern.

Eggplant

- We'll be starting at the top of the eggplant and alternating increase rounds with rounds working evenly to achieve this fun shape. With our purple yarn and our H hook we'll begin with magic circle. To start a magic circle, lay the yarn in your hand like so with the yarn tail pointing toward the bottom of your hand. Pick up the working yarn and wrap it over the top of your first two fingers. Cross it over the top of that first piece of yarn. Pick up your hook, insert it into the back of your hand underneath this first loop of yarn and pick up the working yarn with your hook. The magic circle is where your two fingers are here. You need to carefully remove these two fingers, preserving the circle. Pick up your working yarn as if you're about to start crocheting and pinch together this twist with your thumb and third finger. Yarn over and this is your first chain of round one. In round one we're going to work six single crochets into this magic ring. To work a single crochet, insert your hook in the desired stitch, yarn over and pull through one. Yarn over and pull through two. Again, for single crochet, insert your hook in the desired stitch. Yarn over, pull through one. Yarn over, pull through two. Work four more single crochets into the magic circle. Two. Three and four. To close up the magic circle, pick up the yarn end and give it a tug. We will not be joining rounds, so we'll just start round two into the first stitch of round one. Round two begins with an increase which means we'll be working two single crochets into one stitch. So work your first single crochet into this first stitch. That's one. Work your second single crochet into the same stitch. You're gonna repeat that six times all the way around for a total of 12 stitches. Before beginning the next round, I'm going to grab my stitch marker and place it in front of the stitch I just worked. This will help me keep my place as we work the rounds. For round three, you're going to work one increase. So that's two single crochets into the first stitch and then one single crochet into the following stitch. Repeat that six times all the way around for a total of 18 stitches. Before I begin round four, I'm gonna flip up my stitch marker and for round four we're going to work one increase and then two single crochets evenly. Working evenly just means working one stitch in each stitch. So we'll repeat one increase and two single crochets six times all the way around for a total stitch count of 24. For round five, work one increase and three single crochets evenly. Repeat that six times all the way around for a total stitch count of 30. Round six through 12 are simply working in single crochet evenly all the way around. At the end of round 12 your project looks sort of like a cap. This is the top of your eggplant and we're going to increase slowly now to create the hips of our eggplant. Don't forget to flip up your stitch marker to keep your place and we'll begin round 13 with an increase. And then you're going to work nine single crochet evenly. Repeat that motif three times all the way around for a total stitch count of 33. In the next round instead of nine single crochets evenly. In your motif you'll work 10 single crochets and then in the following round you'll work 11 single crochets and in the round after that, 12 single crochets. At the end of round 16 you should have a total stitch count of 42 stitches. And then for round 17 through 23, simply work in single crochet evenly around. In round 24 we're going to begin to decrease. Flip up my stitch marker to keep my place and to work an invisible decrease, insert your hook into the front loop only of the next stitch and then insert your hook into the front loop only of the following stitch. Yarn over, pull through two loops. Yarn over, pull through two loops. The decrease is created because you just worked one stitch out of two stitches from your previous round and then work five single crochets evenly. Going to repeat that decrease motif six times all the way around for a total stitch count of 36. Here's my invisible decrease, whoop. And then five single crochets evenly. For the next few rounds we're going to continue decreasing. In round 25, work one invisible decrease and four single crochets evenly. Repeat that six times a round. In round 26, work a decrease and then three single crochets evenly and repeat that six times a round for a total stitch count of 24. At this point we'll begin stuffing. I'm

gonna take out my crochet hook to stuff, and then grab some stuffing. This is one of those projects that does not to be really firmly stuffed. It will still look cute with a light amount of stuffing to keep it's shape. You're also going to continue stuffing as you crochet, so don't worry about this being your last opportunity to stuff your project. I'm gonna pop my hook back into my project and we're going to continue to decrease. Flip my stitch marker back and begin round 27. In round 27, we'll be working one decrease. And then two single crochets evenly. Repeat that six times all the way around for a stitch count of 18. In round 28, work one invisible decrease and one single crochet. Repeat that six times for a total stitch count of 12 and then for round 29, work six invisible decreases all in a row for a total stitch count of six. To close up, work a slip stitch into the next stitch. To slip stitch, insert your hook into the next stitch. Yarn over and pull through both loops. Break off, giving yourself about eight inches of yarn. Yarn over one more time and pull the yarn tail all the way through. Give that a tug. You don't need your stitch marker anymore, so pull that out. If you feel like you wanna add a little bit more stuffing before we close up this hole, you can use your wooden stick or pencil to help guide the stuffing inside. Since I don't prefer the eggplant to be super firm, I'm probably just going to add a little bit more and then finish up. Take your tapestry needle and string your yarn tail on it. We're gonna use this yarn tail to weave through the remaining six stitches. Work only in the front loops of each stitch and point your needle working from the inside toward the outside. Give the yarn tail a tug to close up the hole and then tie a small knot to secure. Weave through a couple stitches to secure this yarn tail. And then to hide your yard end inside a 3D object, just pop your needle back through where your yarn was coming out and you can exit the needle anywhere on your project, doesn't matter where. Grab your scissors, give the yarn tail a little tug, snip it close and the yarn tail just disappears right inside.

Eggplant Top

- The stem is worked separately and we're going to begin with the top of the stem and then work the leaves at the base of the stem. With your green yarn and your G hook, work a magic circle and chain one which I've done here. Then you're going to work four single crochet into the magic ring. One. And four. To close the magic circle, tug on this yarn tail. For rounds two through six, just keep single crocheting evenly around and the round count actually doesn't matter too much for the stem, you just want to work your piece until it's about one inch long. As you're working evenly, you'll notice it's probably easier to work this project with the wrong side of your work, facing the outside of the stem, and that's okay. When your stem is about one inch long, slip stitch to the next stitch to join. I slip stitch and for round seven, chain one, this is an increase round. You're going to work two single crochets in the first stitch. Might be a little hard to see your stitches since this is so tiny but just be patient and look and pay attention. So two single crochets in this first stitch, and then three single crochets in the second stitch. One. Two, three, all in the same stitch. Repeat that one more time and then slip stitch to the first stitch to join. You should have 10 stitches all the way around. Then we're going to keep increasing. Begin row one with a chain one and then work three single crochets evenly. Two and three. For row two, chain one and turn and work three single crochets evenly again. Two. Three. Chain one and turn to begin row three. We're going to work a decrease called a single crochet two together. You insert your hook into the first stitch, yarn over and pull through one. Then insert your hook into the following stitch, yarn over and pull through one. Yarn over and pull through all three loops on your hook. And then work one single crochet into that remaining stitch. For row four, chain one and turn and then work two single crochets evenly. For row five, chain one and turn, and work a single crochet two together. Row six, chain two, and turn.

And we're gonna use a slip stitch to make a nice pointy tip for our leaf. Skip the first chain. Slip stitch into the second chain. And then slip stitch to the last stitch in this row. Go ahead and break your yarn off here. To work your second leaf, turn your piece over so that the right side of this round is facing you. Rejoin your green yarn into the next free stitch on the outside of your stem. Going to put a slipknot on my hook and join, and then you're going to make another leaf just like the first one. Continue working your leaves just like this until you have five total leaves. But before breaking off your last leaf, make sure to give yourself a 24 inch yarn tail to use for sewing later. And then you're gonna have to weave in all these short yarn tails. String your tapestry needle onto your long yarn tail. Grab your eggplant. And place this on the top. You can use some straight pins to help keep this green piece in place while you sew. The piece is fairly small so you don't need to use that many pins. I'm going to use two. You can start using a basic top stitch to sew these two pieces together. Insert your needle on the top of this green piece. Make sure you're picking up some stitches from the purple piece and then just come back up through your green piece. When you're re-inserting your needle, try to stay close to where you came out so that your stitches aren't super visible. For the tips of the leaves, I kind of like to leave them unsewn and they curl up a little bit, it just looks more natural to me. Continue sewing down your leaves. When you've sewn all the way around, tie a small knot to secure. Weave through a couple stitches. And then hide your yarn tail inside your project just like we did before, and give that a tug, and clip it and that disappears right inside. It's super cute. You can change up the colors in this pattern to make an avocado or even a pear by just leaving the top off and with just one class you've learned already how to make a whole fruit and veggie bowl.

Chapter 6 - Crocheted Watermelon

Crocheted Watermelon

Introduction & Materials

(upbeat music) - Hi, it's Twinkie, let's crochet a cute watermelon. One of my favorite childhood memories is during the summertime when my Mom would make these elaborate fruit salads inside of a watermelon basket, and while we're not going to get that fancy, we will be making this really cute watermelon slice for any fruit salad. For the watermelon slice, we'll be covering some basic crochet techniques. We'll work the magic circle, a slip stitch, a single crochet stitch, and I'll also show you an easy tip for making your crocheted semi-circles extra round. For this delicious watermelon slice you will need about 40 yards of a red worsted weight yarn, about 20 yards of a green worsted weight yarn, about 20 yards of a white worsted weight yarn, and about five yards of a black worsted weight yarn. These are all Lion Brand Vanna's Choice and I'm using scarlet, fern, white, and black. You also need some polyester stuffing, a small pair of scissors, an H hook, a tapestry needle, a stitch marker or small piece of scrap yarn in a contrasting color, some straight pins, and don't forget to print out your PDF pattern.

Watermelon sides

- When I first designed the pattern for the sides I just crocheted a single crochet semicircle with some regular increases. But what happened was all the increases ended up being in the same spot, which gave us more of a trapezoidal angular shape. So to make the watermelon side more round what we're going to do is alternate where we put the increases in each round. To begin, we're going

to work a magic circle. So grab your red yarn and your H hook. Place the yarn in your hand like this, with the yarn tail coming toward the bottom of your hand. Grab the working yarn, and wrap it over the top of your first two fingers. And cross this over that first piece of yarn. With your H hook, insert here at the back of your hand underneath this yarn loop. And pick up the working yarn with your crochet hook. The magic circle is where your two fingers are right now. You're gonna carefully remove them, preserving the circle. Pick up your working yarn as if you're about to crochet. And pinch this twist between your third finger and your thumb. To start row one you're going to chain one. And then you're going to work three single crochets into this magic circle. To work a single crochet insert your hook into the magic circle. Yarn over, pull through one, yarn over, and pull through two. Once again, for single crochet insert your hook into the desired stitch. Yarn over, pull through one, yarn over, pull through two. And then just one more single crochet to complete row one. To pull the magic circle closed just give a tug on this yarn end. For row two chain one and turn. We're going to start increasing. To work an increase you simply work two single crochets into one stitch. Here's your first single crochet, and then another single crochet in the exact same stitch. We're doing that three times all the way around for a total of six stitches in round two. For row three chain one and turn. Two single crochets in the first stitch, and then one single crochet in the following stitch. Here's your increase, and then one single crochet. Repeat that three times all the way around. Your stitch count should be nine stitches. For row four chain one and turn. Work one increase, and then two single crochets evenly. That's your increase, and then one single crochet, and two single crochets. Repeat that three times all the way around for a stitch count of 12. On row six we'll begin alternating where we place our increases. Chain one, and turn. Rather than beginning our motif with the increase I'm going to start with two single crochets evenly first. There's one, two. Now we'll begin our increasing motif, which is one increase, and then four single crochets evenly. I'm gonna repeat that one more time. Your increase here, and then four single crochets evenly. We'll work our third increase here, and end with two single crochets evenly. Your stitch count will be 18 stitches. For row seven chain one and turn. We're going to put our increase here in the beginning once more, just like we did in rows one through five. And the motif here is one increase and five single crochets evenly. Repeat that three times all the way around for a total stitch count of 21. For rows 8 through 14 you're going to continue increasing the stitch count per row by three stitches. But make sure to follow your pattern because we're going to keep alternating whether the increase falls at the beginning, middle, or end of each motif. I'm coming up to the last stitch of row 14, and now I'm going to introduce my own color. Break off your red, giving yourself about 24 inches of yarn to use for sewing later. How you introduce a new color is work the last stitch here, but don't do the final pull through just yet. Bring in your white, put a slip knot on your hook. And use the white as the final pull through of your last red stitch. To begin row 15 chain one and turn. You're going to keep increasing as you were before. Your increase motif here is one increase. And then 13 single crochets evenly. Just repeat that three times all the way around for a total stitch count of 45. For row 14 chain one and turn. And work three more increases as you were before for a total stitch count of 48. Then break off your white yarn, leaving about 12 inches of yarn for sewing later, and weaving your short ends. Remember not to weave in your long ends. And string one of your short ends onto your tapestry needle. To weave in pass your tapestry needle inside these stitches. Since I'm weaving in my white yarn tail I'm going to pass through some white stitches to help keep it more invisible. You know that your tapestry needle is going through the center of the stitch if you can't see it both on the front and the back. Give that a gentle tug, don't pull too tightly, or you'll warp your work. And to make sure it's extra secure I switch directions. And weave one more time a

couple stitches in the other direction here. Then, you can clip that close. Weave in your short red yarn tail in the same way. And then go ahead and make another side.

Rind

- We work our rind separately and then we'll sew it to the sides later. Grab your green yarn and your H hook and put a slip knot onto your hook. Begin with a chain two that's one and two. For row one, skip the first chain and work a single crochet into the second chain. Row two chain one and turn. Work two single crochets into this one stitch. For row three chain one and turn. You're going to work one increase and then one single crochet for a stitch count of three. Row four chain one and turn. Work one increase and then two single crochets evenly. Your stitch count should be four. For rows five and six, chain one and turn I'm just working single crochet evenly across. Your stitch count will remain the same at four. Continue to gradually increase your stitch count until row 16 where your stitch count will be eight single crochets, for row 17 through 33 keep single crocheting evenly across and then in row 34 we'll begin to decrease. To begin row 34, chain one and turn. We will decrease using a single crochet two together which I'll show you how to do. Insert your hook into the first stitch, yarn over and pull through one. Insert your hook into the following stitch, yarn over and pull through one. Then yarn over and pull through all three loops on your hook. For the rest of row 34, just single crochet evenly across for a total stitch count of seven. For rows 35 and 36, chain one and turn and work in single crochet evenly. At row 37, chain one and turn. We're going to single crochet two together again and work five single crochets evenly across. Your stitch count should be six. For rows 38 and 39, chain one and turn and work evenly across and for the rest of the rind you're going to continue to decrease gradually alternating decrease rows with rows worked evenly. At row 48 you should have one stitch left at which point you break off leaving yourself about a yard of yarn for sewing later and then weaving your short yarn tail.

Finishing

- No watermelon would be complete without seeds. String about a yard of black yarn on your tapestry needle and make sure the right side of your watermelon side is facing toward you. The right side of your work will be the side that's facing you as you crochet, so I'm making sure the right side of our final white round is facing up toward me. And these long tails should be on the left. Our seeds are simply embroidered stitches placed all across the side here. And how many seeds you embroider is totally up to you. I usually do about seven stitches for this first pass because we're going to do two rows of stitches. But again, how many seeds you want to embroider is totally up to you. So I'm just going to use stitches that are about one or 1 1/2 rows long into this red portion of my watermelon. And you can travel the needle behind the watermelon side to get to your next seed. Don't pull this too tightly or you'll warp your work. It's gonna start looking ugly on the back, but that's okay. Work your second seed like so. After the third stitch, I'll start traveling over again. For the second row of seeds, jump down a couple rows here and work more seeds in the same way. At the last seed, I'm going to flip over my watermelon and tie off my yarn. So just pick up a little bit of the stitch next to your yarn and tie a small knot. This end is going to be on the inside of your watermelon, but just so I know it's not going to pop out, I just weave through one or two of these stitches. Again, you can make sure you can't see your needle on either side of your project and you know your yarn will be hidden. I'm gonna cut that just an inch or two of slack. Again, this was all going to be on the inside. And tie off your beginning yarn tail in the same way. Add seeds to the other watermelon side in the same way, and then we'll seam everything together. Place your

watermelon sides one on top of each other with your seeds facing outward. String one of the long red yarn tails on your tapestry needle, and, if you want to, you can use a pin or two to keep these pieces together in the right place. We're just stitching across the top here, so you don't really need a pin, it's just for your security, if it makes you feel better. We're just going to whip stitch the red sections together and continue stitching in this direction. For the whip stitch, I pass my needle through both layers of my pieces and pull all the way through, bring this back around toward me, and pass through both layers again. Keep inserting your needle into each stitch or each row here across the top. When you get to the end of this red section, tie off your yarn and weave in the end. If you had enough yarn to sew all the way across, you don't actually need the other long red yarn tail. I just left that for you in case you ran out of your initial yarn tail. But I have plenty leftover, so I'm just going to clip this first one and then I can trim this really long tail and weave it in. Just pass through a couple stitches. You can actually hide this on the inside. I'll pull out my pin. Use your short white yarn tails to sew the top of the white portion together. It's just a couple short stitches. So whip stitch those in the same way as the red and then tie off and weave in the end. Do the same thing on the other side. Grab your rind, and what we're going to do here is sew this long edge of the rind to the outer edge of the side. To help you out, you can pin this into place in a couple areas. But the stitch count will work out in a way where there's 48 stitches around here, and there are 48 rows here. So you can sew one row to one stitch, and the stitch count should work out and make an easy guide for your stitches. So if you go stitch for stitch, you don't really need to pin, but I just like to know that my pieces aren't going to go anywhere while I'm stitching. We'll do the other side later. We'll just start with this first one. So string your long yarn tail onto your tapestry needle and just start inserting your tapestry needle through this first stitch in the watermelon side, and then through the first row in the watermelon rind. I'm using whip stitches again. Go to the next stitch and sew it to the next row. - [Man] Do you like watermelon-flavored things, like candy? - Hmm, I think it depends on the candy. I'm cool with the watermelon Jolly Ranchers. Those are good. But I mean, artificially-flavored fruit anything can be scary, like banana. Where did that come from? That does not taste like a banana. Have you seen the watermelon Oreos? Ugh, I Instagramed a photo of this wall of Pop-Tarts, and there's also watermelon Pop-Tarts. And this created quite a rift on Instagram. Some people were like, oh my gosh, yes! And some people were like, ugh, I can't believe that exists. It was very polarizing, which I thought was interesting 'cause I wasn't even really taking a picture of that. It was just sort of the cool visual of the wall of Pop-Tarts. So watermelon-flavored-- - Oh, I saw you posted on Instagram. - Yeah, yeah. - [Man] You were like, sha-winged inside a jackpot or something like that. - I think I said sha-wing! (laughs) All the Pop-Tarts. - [Man] All of these crazy flavors of Pop-Tarts. - Getting toward the end of this first side. Oops, if your yarn is starting to get all tangly, you can just twist your tapestry needle like that to unwind it, and it won't kink up as much. In the corner here, and just make sure the opening between these two pieces will have a stitch in it. And just rotate your piece like this. If you run out of yarn for sewing, all you have to do is break off a new piece of yarn and begin sewing again. You can just weave in all those ends at the end of your project just like you always do. When you're about halfway around sewing your pieces together that's when you can begin stuffing. I think this project looks best if it's not overstuffed, but you can also stuff according to how you would like your watermelon to look. Make sure you're getting it all the way at this end, though. As you finish seaming these pieces together, you can also continue stuff a little toward the end. Just going to keep sewing these edges together. You notice I have a new tail here, but we'll just weave that in later. I'm at the very end of sewing together my pieces. Tie a small knot to secure. And weave in this end. I'm going to weave through just a couple

stitches to make sure my yarn tail isn't going anywhere, and then to hide a yarn tail inside a three dimensional piece, just take your needle, insert it where your yarn was coming out, and come back out anywhere on your project. Give it a tug and snip it, and that just hides inside. I'm gonna do that with my remaining two yarn tails. Look how juicy our watermelon turned out. You can also use this pattern to create fun zipper pouches just by replacing this seam with a zipper instead. And you can also vary your colors and have a pink watermelon or change the colors completely and have fun with lemons and oranges or limes.

Chapter 7 - Crocheted Broccoli

Crocheted Broccoli

Introduction & Materials

(bright music) - Broccoli is probably the vegetable I eat the most. I'm super lazy. I just throw some water in a bowl and those florets and nuke it. And it makes my roommate so mad because it fills the house with this like steamy broccoli funk. But, lucky for us, today the florets we're making are just made out of yarn. This little project works up in two separate pieces which we sew together later. We'll go over some basic crochet techniques such as working a magic circle, slip stitch, single crochet, and the triple crochet. We create this really neat nubby texture by alternating short and tall stitches. For one broccoli floret you will need about five yards of a light green worsted weight yarn and about eight yards of a darker green worsted weight yarn. These are both Lion Brand Vanna's Choice in fern and olive. You'll also need a small amount of polyester stuffing, some straight pins, a small wooden stick or a pencil to help you with stuffing, an H hook, a small pair of scissors, a tapestry needle, stitch markers or a small piece of scrap yarn in a contrasting color. And don't forget to print out your PDF pattern.

Broccoli stalk

- Grab your light green yarn and your H hook and begin with a magic circle. To work a magic circle, lay the yarn in your hand like this with the yarn tail pointing toward the bottom of your hand, grab the working yarn, wrap it around the top of your first two fingers and cross it over that first piece of yarn. Grab your H hook, insert it into the back of your hand, underneath this yarn loop and pick up your working yarn with the hook. The magic circle is where your two fingers are. You're gonna carefully remove your two fingers, preserving the circle and pick up your working yarn as if you're about to crochet. Hold this twist with your thumb and your third finger and to begin round one, yarn over and chain one. For the rest of round one, you're going to work eight single crochet into this magic ring. To work a single crochet, insert your hook into the desired stitch, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through two. Single crochet again, insert your hook into the desired stitch, yarn over, pull through one, yarn over and pull through two. Continue to work six more single crochets for a total of eight. It's my last single crochet. To close up the magic ring, just pull on this yarn tail. We are not joining rounds, so that means we're just going to start round two in the first stitch of round one. At round two, insert your stitch marker to help keep your place and you're going to work in single crochet evenly around until round five. Working evenly simply means working one single crochet in each stitch all the way around. So lay this piece of yarn right in front of the stitch you just worked and begin crocheting evenly for three rounds. After each round, flip up your stitch marker to help keep your place. Round five is an increasing round. For an increase, you

will crochet two single crochets into one stitch. So here's your first single crochet. And then another one in the exact same place. That's your increase. Then work one single crochet in the next stitch. Repeat this a total of four times all the way around for a total stitch count of 12. It's your increase and then one single crochet. For round six we're going to keep increasing. Work one increase and then three single crochets evenly. You're gonna repeat that three times all the way around for a total stitch count of 15. This is your second increase and then three single crochets. At the end of round five, we're working a slip stitch to join. For slip stitch, insert your hook into the next stitch, yarn over and pull through both loops. Now we'll work on the little branches. Flip up your stitch marker. To begin round seven, chain three, so that's one, two and three, skip the first chain and then work single crochets evenly in the remaining two chains. That's one and that's two. You're going to skip one stitch and then work two slip stitches evenly. One, two, one branch is complete. Repeat that four more times for a total of five branches. - [Camera Man] What's your favorite broccoli dish? - I think I'm pretty simple when it comes to broccoli, although when you put cheese on most vegetables you can't lose, right? (chuckling) Going to break off, leaving about 24 inches of yarn for sewing later. Snip this yarn. And to finish your project, you yarn over and pull the yarn tail all the way through. You can remove your stitch marker. And since the opening is so small here for weaving in this yarn tail, I use my hook to pop it to the outside just so I can access it more easily. Grab a little tiny bit of stuffing... And put it in the base of the stem. You're also going to weave in this short yarn tail. Grab your tapestry needle and string this yarn tail on. And to weave in, just go inside a couple of stitches... Like this. Go through a couple more. And you can pop this back through where the yarn came out and just hide it on the inside of the stem. So it should look like this when you're finished.

Broccoli floret

- Now let's make the floret. The pattern's gonna look a little weird, but keep in mind for each round we're still just increasing the stitch count by eight stitches in each round, but we're also alternating single crochet stitches with triple crochet stitches so the repeating motif will look a little bit more complicated but all the numbers will work out. Start with your dark green yarn and your H hook and work a magic ring. To start round one, chain one which I have here and you're gonna start working one single crochet, and then one triple crochet. For a triple crochet, yarn over twice. Insert your hook into the desired stitch, yarn over one, yarn over two, yarn over two again and then yarn over the last two. So you can see that stitch is much taller than the single crochet. As you work the next single crochet, you'll see that the triple crochet bends over and it will create a little bump at the back of your work. This means that the wrong side of our work will end up showing on the outside of our floret. So work one more triple crochet. That's yarn over two times, insert your hook into the desired stitch, yarn over pull through one. Yarn over and pull through two. Yarn over and pull through two. Yarn over and pull through the last two. You're going to repeat a single crochet and triple crochet two more times for a total of eight stitches. At the end of round one, close up your magic circle by giving this yarn tail a tug. Don't join rounds and begin round two into the first stitch of round one here. We're going to increase here. So work one single crochet and one triple crochet in the same stitch. Repeat that seven times for a total of eight increases. Two more increases to go on round two. Before I start round three I'm going to use a stitch marker to help keep my place. Just lay that in front of the stitch you just worked. For round three, we're going to keep increasing. So work one single crochet in the first stitch, one triple crochet in the same stitch. That's your increase. And then work one single crochet. For your next increase, begin with triple crochet, and single

crochet in the same stitch. The next stitch is one triple crochet. Repeat this motif three more times for a total of 24 stitches. We're now going to start decreasing and instead of decreasing round by round, I'm going to give you a decrease motif which you'll just keep repeating over and over and over to decrease the stitch count. To work an invisible decrease we're going to pick up the back loop of the first stitch and then the back loop of the next stitch, yarn over and pull through two loops. Yarn over and pull through two loops. Then you're going to just single crochet in the next stitch. Just keep repeating invisible decrease in one single crochet around and around and around a total of 16 times. At the end you should have eight stitches left. On our last stitch we'll slip stitch to the next stitch to join. Break off, giving yourself about eight inches of yarn to work with. Yarn over and pull the tail through. Put a small amount of stuffing inside the floret, so take some polyester stuffing. Roll it around in your hand a little bit to start compacting it because the opening is fairly small, I use a wooden stick or a pencil to help guide it in. And kind of alternate using your finger and your pencil to get all of that inside. You don't have to over stuff, just get enough stuffing in there so that it holds it's shape and it should start looking a bit kind of like a spinning top. Turn this around a little bit and see if I like the shape. I'm gonna try to put in a little bit more. We're going to close up this hole by stringing our yarn tail onto a tapestry needle. We're gonna weave our needle through the remaining eight stitches. I'm going to work from the outside coming toward the center in each stitch. And pull on that to close it up. And tie a small knot to secure. Weave this through a couple stitches just to make sure the yarn tail doesn't go anywhere and then pop it through your project to hide the yarn end. And don't forget to weave in your short yarn tail from the beginning. Now you can start seaming your two pieces together. I'm going to string this long tail on my tapestry needle. This feels a little over stuffed to me. I'm gonna take out a little bit. And to help you with sewing, grab your straight pins to position these pieces together. So the top of the floret is where all your texture is, and you're going to insert the bottom into the opening of your stem. The tips of each branch should just start touching this first round of triple crochets. So that can sort of be a guide for you to start pinning it into place. I'm gonna pin it at the base so it's easier for me to sew the tips. You only need a couple since the project is so small. I'm just gonna use two. You can sew these together using a top stitch. Insert your needle into the top of your first layer and make sure you're picking up stitches from the bottom dark green layer. Come back up through both layers again so your needle comes out through the light green layer. Whoops. Again, keep your needle in the first light green layer. Pick up stitches from the dark green layer, and then come back up through the light green layer. Just keep doing that all the way around the edge here. Once you've sewn all the way around, tie a small knot to secure and then weave in this yarn tail. Our broccoli floret came out so cute! I would even wear it as a broach. Is there a national broccoli day? Let's make one.

Chapter 8 - Crocheted Tomato

Crocheted Tomato

Introduction & Materials

(bright music) - Hi, I'm Twinkie, and we're going to crochet this cute tomato. The really fun part about this project is you can create this really neat texture with a super simple technique. Working the magic circle, a slip stitch, a single crochet stitch, and half double crochet stitch. The tomato works up as a little ball and then we create these fun segments with a few simple stitches. Finally, we'll sew on the tomato top. For this project you'll need about 26 yards of worsted weight red yarn,

and about four yards of worsted weight green yarn. These are both Lion Brand Vanna's Choice in scarlet and kelly. You'll also need a small amount of polyester stuffing, an H hook, a small wooden stick or a pencil to help with stuffing, a pair of scissors, a tapestry needle, stitch markers or a small piece of scrap yarn in a contrasting color, and don't forget to print out your PDF pattern.

Tomato

- Grab your red yarn and your H hook and just start the magic circle. Leave the yarn in your hand, like this, with the tail pointing toward the bottom of your hand, pick up the working yarn and wrap it around the top of your first two fingers, crossing this over the top of that first piece of yarn. With your hook, insert this underneath the first yarn loop, pick up the working yarn with your hook, like this. The magic circle is where your two fingers are. You need to carefully remove your fingers, preserving the circle, and then carefully pick up your working yarn as if you were about to start crocheting. To start round one you're going to chain one. And then you're going to work seven single crochets into this magic ring. To work single crochet insert your hook into this desired stitch, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through two. Once again, single crochet, insert your hook into the desired stitch, yarn over, pull through one, yarn over and pull through two loops. Continue to work five more single crochets for a total of seven. Close up the magic ring by giving the yarn tail a tug. We will not be joining our rounds, so we're going to start round two right into that first stitch of round one. But first I'm going to grab my stitch marker to help keep my place. You can lay your scrap yarn right in front of the stitch you just worked. And round two we'll begin increasing and that simply means working two single crochets into one stitch. So here's your increase, the first single crochet. And then work another single crochet in the exact same space. Work seven increases all the way around for a stitch count of 14. Whoops. If this happens and your yarn splits that's gonna get ugly, so you wanna back out a little bit here and make sure your hook is in this loop properly. I'm going to rework this last increase. Before starting the next round I'm gonna flip up my stitch marker to keep my place. For rounds three to five you're going to continue increasing the stitch count for each round by seven stitches. And I'm increasing by seven stitches instead of six like a normal circle, because I want my tomato to be squashier and flatter, so I need my stitch count to increase more quickly. At the end of round five you should have 35 stitches. Then for round six through 12 you're going to work in single crochet evenly around. And working evenly means that you simply work one single crochet into each stitch. At the end of round 12 I'm going to flip up my stitch marker, as I've been doing after each round previously, and in the beginning of round 13 we're going to start decreasing with invisible decrease and I'm going to show you how to do that. Insert your hook into the front loop of the first stitch and then insert your hook into the front loop of the following stitch, yarn over and pull through two loops, yarn over and pull through two loops. And you can see the decrease is created, because we took two stitches from the previous round to create one stitch in the current round. Then work three single crochet evenly. Work this motif seven times all the way around for a total stitch count of 28. For round 14 decrease your stitch count again by seven for a total stitch count of 21. Pull out your crochet hook and then you can start stuffing. For this project I like to stuff fairly firmly, so that the tomato gets nice and round. You'll have an opportunity to stuff again toward the end, so don't worry about this being your last chance. And if you overstuff at this point it'll be really difficult to keep crocheting, so just kind of gauge what you will feel comfortable with. That feels pretty good to me for now so I'm gonna put my hook back into my project, flip up my stitch marker. And now we're at round 15. We're going to work one invisible decrease and then one single crochet. Work that seven times all

the way around for a total of 14 stitches. For round 16 work invisible decrease seven times for a total of seven stitches, then slip stitch to the next stitch to join. To work a slip stitch insert your hook into the next stitch, yarn over and pull through both loops. Now we're going to break off our yarn giving ourselves about a yard to work with. And to finish this piece yarn over one more time and pull that yarn tail all the way through. Give it a tug. You can pop out your stitch marker, since we don't need it anymore. And I'm going to put in a little bit more stuffing. Because the opening is so small right now you can use your wooden stick or pencil to help guide the stuffing in. I also like to make a small ball out of the stuffing to help compact it and so it goes through the hole more easily. I've stuffed in a good amount when I can feel some resistance against my eraser. Now we'll close up this hole. Grab your tapestry needle, weave this yarn tail through the remaining seven stitches. So point your tapestry needle from the inside toward the outside, picking up that front loop only. Give this yarn tail a tug to close that hole and then tie a small knot to secure. Don't break off your yarn. We're going to create these fun tomato segments that'll make our ball look like a tomato. So take your tapestry needle and poke it through the hole you just closed up. Go all the way through the center of the tomato and come back out through the center of the top, like this. Pull that through. Now all you have to do is loop the yarn over the tomato back toward the bottom and pop it through that bottom hole again and come back up through the top again. And you can see this creates a little line in the tomato and also a fun little indentation. Repeat this four or five more times. You want maybe about five or six segment lines. But if you run out of room or you like the look of one or the other you can really choose whatever number you like, it's just up to how you want the tomato to look. This looks pretty good. I'm gonna go ahead and tie off my yarn. So just tie a small knot back into the bottom of the tomato. Whoops, let's pick up a loop down here. Weave your needle through a couple stitches down here just to secure this tail, that won't go anywhere. Whoops. And then to hide a yarn tail inside a three-dimensional object stick your needle back where your yarn came from and come out anywhere else on the project, doesn't matter where. Pull that yarn tail all the way through. Give the yarn a tug, clip it close, and the yarn end disappears inside your project.

Leaves

- Work six single crochet into the magic ring. That's one, two, three, four, five, and six. Gonna grab my yarn tail to close up the ring. And you're going to slip stitch to the first ditch to join the round. Oops, get that yarn tail out of the way. For round two we're going to start making these leaves. So for the first leaf chain three, one, two, three. Skip the first chain. Then work one single crochet and then a half double crochet. To work a half double crochet yarn over, insert your hook into the desired stitch, yarn over and pull through one loop, yarn over and pull through all three loops. Slip stitch to the next ditch to join. Work six leaves all the way around. Let's chain three. Skip the first chain. Single crochet. And this half double crochet I'll show you one more time. Yarn over, insert your hook into the desired stitch, yarn over and pull through one loop, yarn over and pull through all three loops. Then slip stitch to join. After you've finished working all of your leaves, break off leaving yourself about 24 inches of yarn for sewing later. Weave in your short yarn tail and then grab your tapestry needle. Thread my long yarn tail through the tapestry needle. Grab my tomato and place this on top. I'm going to sew around this inner circle here. I like to leave the tips of the leaves unsewn because I think it looks more fun when they're curling up a little bit. So pierce through both the green piece and make sure you're picking up some red stitches underneath here. And come back up through the tomato top. You don't have to be super precise with this particular sewing project. The piece is so small and you just want to make sure that the tomato top is secure. So it

really only takes like four or five stitches. After sewing all the way around, tie a small knot to secure. Weave through a couple stitches just to secure this yarn tail. And then hide the yarn tail inside the project just like we did before. The really fun part about this project is you can change up the colors for different varieties of tomatoes. You can even use a variegated yarn to create an heirloom tomato. Also you can use the exact same pattern and create some fun, cute pumpkins. Or you can throw them at your friends when they tell you a bad joke. (rimshot) (bright chimes)

Chapter 9 - Crocheted Pineapple

Crocheted Pineapple

Introduction & Materials

(light music) - Hi, I'm Twinkie. We're going to crochet this awesome pineapple. If you've been needing a tropical vacation, and really, who doesn't? This is the perfect opportunity for you to bring the tropics to you. For this pineapple we'll cover some crochet basics such as magic circle, increasing and decreasing, changing yarn colors, the shell stitch, and the spike stitch. For this project you'll need about 48 yards of a worsted weight yellow yarn, about 38 yards of a worsted weight brown yarn, and about 40 yards of a worsted weight green yarn. These are all Lion Brand Vanna's Choice in Mustard, Honey, and Olive. You'll also need a good amount of polyester stuffing, some straight pins, an H hook, a pencil or a small wooden stick to help you with stuffing, a pair of scissors, a tapestry needle, and don't forget to print out your PDF pattern.

Pineapple

- We start the pineapple from the bottom, and work our way to the top. This fun pineapple's created by working one round in yellow with shell stitches, and one round in brown with some spike stitches. Grab your yellow yarn and your H hook, and we begin with magic circle. Lay the yarn in your hand with the yarn tail pointing toward the bottom of your hand. Pick up your working yarn and wrap it around the top of your first two fingers. Cross it over that first piece of yarn. Pick up your hook, insert it into the back of your hand underneath this piece of yarn. Hook the working yarn like this. The magic circle is where your two fingers are and you need to carefully remove your fingers preserving that circle. Pick up your working yarn as if you're about to crochet, and pinch this twist between your thumb and your third finger. To start round one, we'll chain two. One and two. Then work 12 half double crochets into the magic circle. To work a half double crochet, yarn over, insert your hook into the desired stitch, yarn over, and pull through one. Then yarn over, and pull through all three loops on your hook. One more time for half double crochet. Yarn over, insert your hook into the desired stitch, yarn over, pull through one loop, yarn over, and pull through all three loops. You need to work 10 more half double crochets all the way around for a total of 12. 11 and 12. After you work 12, close the magic circle by picking up the yarn tail and giving it a tug. We're joining our rounds in this pattern, which means after each round, we're going to slip stitch to the first stitch to join. To work a slip stitch, insert your hook into the desired stitch, yarn over, and pull through both loops. As we start round two, let's keep in mind at the beginning of every round we're going to work our first stitch into the same stitch as our beginning chains, and I'll show you what I mean by that. For round two chain two, and our first stitch is going to be a half double crochet increase. So, work that first half double crochet into this same stitch as your beginning chains. Sometimes patterns call for working in the next stitch, but always remember for our pattern to work in this first

stitch here. So, work your first half double crochet, and to increase, work one more half double crochet into the same stitch. Next, we're actually going to work three half double crochets into the following stitch. All three go into the exact same space. Work that motif a total of six times all the way around for a stitch count of 30. And our last stitch of the round, which is a slip stitch, we're going to change colors. To change colors, work your last stitch up until the last pull through. Since this is a slip stitch, I'm basically, just inserting my hook into this first stitch of the round. Drop your yellow, but don't break it off because we're going to keep using it in later rounds. Pick up your new color, which is brown. I'm going to put a slipknot onto my hook and pull through using the new color. To start round three, chain one, and work two single crochets in the first stitch. To work a single crochet, insert your hook into the desired stitch, yarn over, pull through one loop, yarn over, and pull through two loop. We actually need to work one more into the same stitch for an increase, so work one more single crochet. Pull through one, yarn over, and pull through two. Then work 14 single crochets evenly, and working evenly means working one stitch in each stitch. That's 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. We're gonna repeat that one more time. One increase, and then 14 single crochets evenly. Work this motif one more time for a total stitch count of 32, and on that last slip stitch to join, you're going to drop brown and pick up yellow again. From here on out, until indicated, you will be switching colors after each round. I'm going to start my slip stitch, drop brown, pick up yellow again, and on that last pull through, bring through the yellow. For round four we're going to start working a shell stitch. The shell stitch is created by working many tall stitches in one stitch, skipping some stitches, and then working a short stitch, and that helps create that little shell-shaped curvature. To begin chain one, work one single crochet, skip one stitch, and then work five double crochets in the next stitch. To work a double crochet, yarn over, insert your hook into the desired stitch, yarn over and pull through one loop, yarn over and pull through two loops, yarn over and pull through the last two loops. You need to work four more double crochets into the exact same stitch. After you've worked five double crochets, skip this stitch and repeat this seven more times all the way around for a total of eight shells. So, begin that motif again. Single crochet. Skip one stitch, and the next stitch, five double crochets. As you're working and changing colors, you might find that your yarn is starting to get twisted, and it's easier to unwind this twist by just taking your hook out and twisting the project. Your intuition might tell you to try to juggle these yarn balls around and around to get rid of that twist, but just twist the project and your yarn should straighten out. Another tip for keeping the yarn from tangling together is when you're changing colors, always remember which ball is in front and which ball is behind. Always take from the front and take from the back, and actually, when you put your mind to it, it really helps keep the two yarns untangled. On the last slip stitch of round four, I drop my mustard, remembering to keep it in the front. I'm going to pick up my brown from the back and use the brown for my final pull through. In round five, we're going to start working our spike stitch. Chain one, and work one single crochet, not in the first stitch of yellow, but you're going to work your single crochet into the same space as the single crochet from the row below. So, stick your hook in the same space as that single crochet you previously worked. You can see this new stitch, the brown stitch is sort of eating the yellow stitch, and that's what you want to happen. So, you're not going to work in that yellow stitch. The next stitch you're going to work in is this double crochet from the previous round. Work five single crochets evenly. Two, three, four, five. And work that motif beginning with the spike stitch all the way around for a total of eight times. Here's your spike stitch, and then five single crochets evenly. Your stitch count is not changing in this round, so it should be 48 by the time you get to the end. You'll see that we'll start staggering our motif to start forming that pineapple design. Round six

begins with the chain three. One, two, three, and then three double crochets into the first stitch. This is a partial shell which we will complete at the end of the round. To start the motif for this round, skip two stitches, and then work one single crochet. Skip two stitches again, and work five double crochets into the next stitch. Work this motif seven times, and at the end of this round we will complete that partial shell from the beginning. I'm finishing up my last motif, and then skip two stitches and work one single crochet. Skip these last two stitches, and then we're going to complete this first partial shell by working two double crochets into the same stitch as that partial shell. There's one, and then two. Slip stitch to join, and bring in brown. Drop that, pick up my brown, and pull it through. At this point, I'm going to flip my piece over and weave in some of my yarn ends while they're still easy to reach. Gonna grab my tapestry needle and string this short, yellow yarn tail through. Pop out your crochet hook so it's not banging around everywhere. I'm gonna give my magic circle a final tug. Sometimes, the magic circle tends to open up a little bit when you're working so many stitches into it. So, just tighten it, and then I'm gonna tie a knot to secure it. This is all on the back of my work, so no one will be able to see it. Weave this tapestry needle through a couple stitches just to secure. And then I snip it just leaving a short tail. In case there's any movement, the tail won't pop out to the other side. Do the same thing with my short brown tail. From this point, until round 22, you'll notice that the stitch count will remain the same after each round at 48 stitches. You'll continue to alternate yellow shell rounds with brown spike rounds, staggering the pattern until we begin to decrease. At the end of round 21, slip stitch, and bring in your yellow. In round 22, we'll start with a chain three and you'll notice that our shells will now have three double crochets instead of five double crochets. Begin with a partial shell with two double crochets in the first stitch. Woops. There's one double crochet, and our second double crochet. The motif begins with skipping two stitches, and then working one single crochet. Skipping two stitches, and working three double crochets. Work this motif seven times, and then we'll complete that first partial shell. At this point, you can break off your yellow yarns since we won't be working with it anymore. So, break off giving yourself about six inches of yarn. To begin round 23, chain one. And our motif begins with an invisible decrease. To work an invisible decrease, pick up the front loop of the first stitch, pick up the front loop of the second stitch, yarn over and pull through two loops, yarn over and pull through two loops. You can see the decrease is created because we used two stitches from the previous round to create one stitch in the new round. You're going to single crochet your spike stitch into this round below, and then one single crochet in the next stitch. Work that motif eight times around. Your stitch count at that point should be 24. At the end of this round, slip stitch and bring in green. We're going to finish the pineapple in green in order to create a base for our leaves. Put a slipknot with green on your hook and pull that through. Before I begin round 24 I'm going to break off my brown yarn. Weave in your brown end and then weave in your yellow end, and we'll start stuffing. I pop out my crochet hook just so it's not banging everywhere while I stuff. I just grab some stuffing, just put it right in. This is one of those projects you don't really have to stuff super firmly. Just put enough stuffing in there to keep the shape. We'll continue to decrease in round 24, so we begin with chain one. Our motif is working one invisible decrease, and then two single crochets evenly. One, two. Work that motif six times around for a total stitch count of 18. That's our third decrease, and then two single crochets evenly. At the end of the round, slip stitch to join. For rounds 25 and 26, continue to decrease by six stitches per round until you have six stitches remaining, then we'll close up the pineapple. I've worked my last slip stitch, and then I'm going to break off green leaving about an eight inch yarn tail. To finish up, yarn over one more time and pull the yarn tail all the way through. This is your last chance to put in any more stuffing. Since the

opening is so small, I'm going to use my pencil to help guide the stuffing in. You can also start rolling the stuffing into a little ball. It helps compact it, and guide it through the small opening. Just push that through. Remember this project doesn't have to be stuffed too firmly, so that looks pretty good to me. I'm going to pop my tapestry needle onto my yarn tail like this. And to close up this hole, we're going to weave this yarn tail for the remaining six stitches. I'm going to pick up the front loop only of each stitch coming from the inside toward the outside. Pull on that yarn tail and it closes up the opening, and then tie a small knot to secure. Weave through a couple stitches to secure the yarn tail, and then to hide a yarn tail inside a three-dimensional object, just poke your tapestry needle back where the yarn was coming from and pop out anywhere else on the project. Give the yarn a slight tug, clip it close, and the yarn tail disappears inside.

Leaves

- Each leaf is worked with one front piece and one back piece which we then seam together. This creates a thicker double-layer leaf which helps give it structure and makes the leaf pop up. We're going to work three long leaves and three short leaves. To begin your long leaf, grab your green yarn and your H hook and put a slipknot onto your hook. Chain 19. That's one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, and nineteen. For row one, skip the first two chains and then you'll start working thirteen half double crochets evenly across. That's seven. That's twelve. And thirteen. Then you're going to work three single crochets evenly. One, two, and three. In this last chain work one slip stitch. Rotate your piece a little. You'll now work in the other side of this foundation chain. One slip stitch. And then three single crochets evenly. One, two, three. And then half double crochets in the rest of the thirteen chains. This is the last half double crochet. And then just break off with enough yarn to weave in your end. Make another side of your long leaf in the exact same way except break off leaving yourself about a yard of yarn to sew the leaf together. I've woven in all my yarn ends except for the long one which I've strung on my tapestry needle. I'm going to sandwich these two sides together making sure that the right sides of my work are facing the outside. The right side of your work is the side of the work that faces you while you're crocheting. And the wrong side is the back. So the backs should be touching. And the right side should be toward you. Grab your tapestry needle. And you're just going to work whip stitches in each stitch all the way around both leaves. So pick up the first stitch of this front leaf and pick up the first stitch of the one behind it. You're gonna pull the yarn through. To begin the next whipstitch bring your needle back to the front piece. Pick up one stitch. Pick up one stitch from the back piece. And then pull the yarn all the way through. Continue to seam the same way all the way around. Don't forget to sew the bottom of the leaf together as well. When you get all the way around tie a small knot to secure your stitching. Weave through a few stitches to make sure your yarn tail doesn't go anywhere. I'm gonna treat this like a 3D object and pop the yarn tail through to the other side of my leaf just like this. And give it a slight tug, clip it close, and the yarn tail will be inside. Make two more long leaves. Then make three short leaves which are worked up in the exact same way except they begin with 13 chains which then shortens the leaf.

Finishing

- Let's sew our leaves on top of our pineapple. It's gonna start looking a little messy and crazy while I'm sewing these pieces together, but it really is just sewing one piece to another, so everything is gonna turn out great. Start with your three long leaves. They're going to go into the center of the

top of your pineapple. They're going to form this sort of triangle position. And I'm going to attempt to pin them into place first. So we'll start with one, grab a pin. These pieces are kind of floppy so it makes pinning upright a bit strange, but the pinning is definitely helpful as we begin to attach these pieces together. I'm just gonna shove the pin into the bottom of the leaf and the top of the pineapple, and then come back out like this. Grab your second leaf. I like to use a third one too also just to make sure I still like the placement of everything, looks pretty good. Grab another pin. Pin this down. And pin down my third leaf. Okay let's make sure I get into the top of my pineapple. Okay, string about a yard of green yarn on your tapestry needle. I like to use a yard at a time for sewing, that's about the longest length I'm comfortable with. And if you run out of yarn, you can always just join on a new piece. Let me show you the path of my sewing and what I'm about to do. I'm going to sew down the base of one leaf. And so that they don't flop over so much, I'm gonna sew these two leaves together just a little bit, like just for a stitch or two, or three. And come back down, and sew the second leaf down at the bottom here. And then sew these two leaves together a little bit. Finish up the bottom of that third leaf, and finally sew up the third and the first leaf together. I'm using a whip stitch to piece all these together, so insert your needle into your pineapple. Make sure you're picking up a couple stitches. And insert your needle from the back of this leaf to the front, picking up a couple stitches and pull through. Leave yourself enough to tie in later. And then I'm gonna go back into my pineapple again, making sure I'm picking up some yarn here, insert the needle into the back of my leaf, back out the front, and pull through. Continue stitching through the top of the pineapple and the bottom of the leaf. Get that tail out of the way. You can also pop out this pin, you don't need it anymore. Gonna put one more stitch into this lower corner of my leaf. And here is where I'm going to put a couple of stitches through the base of these leaves. So pick up a couple stitches of one leaf, a couple stitches of the next leaf, and come back out through that first leaf. Gonna do one more. And then stitch back down so I can start sewing down the bottom of the second leaf. Can actually pull out the pin right now. Continue sewing on your long leaves in the same way, and when you've gone all the way around and sewn your first leaf to your third leaf, go ahead and tie off, and then weave in your ends. We don't need to use our pins anymore so I've strung about a yard of yarn on my tapestry needle. I'm gonna grab a short leaf. And I like to stagger the long leaves and the short leaves, so I'm gonna put this in between the two long leaves. These are all going to sit on the outer edge here. But if you want to play with placement, you can do that too. There's no right or wrong, it's just what you think looks pretty. Gonna insert my needle into the top of my pineapple again and sew the bottom of this short leaf to the top of my pineapple, the same way you did with the long leaves. That green area you created at the top of the pineapple is a good guide for you to make sure that all your leaves are still at the top of your pineapple and not drifting toward the sides. This should feel pretty stable as far as whether or not it's gonna stay up. If you're worried about it moving around, you can also pop a few stitches between this short leaf and the long leaf behind it. My second leaf is going to go in between these next two long leaves. So I'm just gonna take my yarn, break off a new piece, and just travel it through the pineapple like this. And then sew that on in the same way. Sew in your remaining leaf, tie off and weave in your ends, and now you have a finished pineapple. This was a really fun project. You learned how to make all these crazy, sculptural pineapple leaves and this gorgeous pineapple scale design. If you make half of a pineapple, you can even make a cute little fascinator and you'll be totally ready for your Carmen Miranda costume or your fabulous vacay.