

Farm To Market: Wool

Assessment of Prior Knowledge:

- What can you think of that is made of wool?
- Where does wool come from?
- What animals give us wool?
- How is wool made into fabric?

Vocabulary:

Fiber: A substance made of threads

Fleece: The woolly coat of a sheep or other animal

Sliver: A thin thread that is made when wool is carded and stretched

Loom: A machine used for weaving yarn and thread into fabric

Sizing: A starchy substance that wool is dipped into to give it a softer texture

Comprehension Questions:

Sheep

1. What are the names for the male sheep, the female sheep and the baby sheep?
2. Why do some sheep farmers put a donkey in the pen with their sheep?

Sheep Shearing

1. What kinds of special equipment do the sheep shearers use?

Spinning

1. What are the different steps in spinning raw wool into yarn?
2. How do workers at the mill create new and interesting colors of yarn?

Weaving

1. How do automatic looms make complex patterns, such as plaids and stripes while working so quickly?

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the differences between spinning and weaving wool by hand and by machine? How are the processes similar? What different tools are used in each process?

Follow-up Activities:

- Students can make their own weavings, either with paper or with yarn. By completing projects with simple "over and under" weaving, they will gain an appreciation for the intricate process of weaving wool into fabric.



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