

KANSAS FARM BUREAU'S AG LEARNING ZONE

YOUTH ACTIVITY: COTTON ART

OBJECTIVE: YOUTH WILL BETTER UNDERSTAND THE WONDERS OF THE LIFE CYCLE OF COTTON.

Vocabulary Words

- Fabric – cloth produced by weaving fibers (such as cotton, silk or wool) together.
- Ginning – the process of cleaning cotton.
- Textile Mill – where cloth is made.
- Weaving – two sets of yarns or threads interlaced to form fabric or cloth.

Lesson

Ask youth if they know which **fabric** most of their clothes, bed sheets, etc. are made from.

- Explain that cotton is a natural material commonly used to make clothes.
- Cotton goes through several processes before it looks like the clothing or oil we use daily.
- Farmers put a lot of hard work into growing and harvesting their cotton.
- After harvest, the cotton is moved to the **gin** to be cleaned. Then it is packaged into bales to be stored until it is taken to a **textile mill**.
- At the mill, the cleaned cotton is spun and stretched into yarn then wound onto bobbins and dyed different colors. Then the yarn is taken to the loom where it is **woven** together.
- The cloth is then either sold in bulk or made into clothes to be sold in stores.
- To make cotton balls the cotton is loosely spun.

Fun Facts About Cotton

- Cotton is a food AND a fiber crop. Cotton seed is fed to cattle and crushed to make oil. This cottonseed oil is then used for cooking and in products like soap, margarine, makeup, medication, rubber and plastics.
- Seventy-five percent of men's clothing contain a cotton blend.
- Cotton keeps the body cool in the summer and warm in the winter.
- The average American owns seven pairs of blue jeans.
- U.S. money is woven from cotton and linen.

Assessments

- True or False? Sheep have cotton fur. False, sheep have wool. Cotton is being used today to show how soft sheep are.
- True or False? Some skin and hair care products have cottonseed oil in them.
- True or False? Winter is the best time to wear cotton clothes. False, Cotton helps keep you cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

Hands-on Activity

- Today we are going to use cotton balls to decorate our sheep.
- Assist youth as they glue cotton balls onto the sheep template to create their masterpiece.

Suggested Resources

- Sheep art template
- Cotton balls (as needed)
- Glue
- Pencils (to write names on finished projects)



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