

Cleo Cotton's Big Adventure Lesson



A lesson based on the Power Point Presentation, "Cleo Cotton's Big Adventure."

This material was produced by Kansas Farm Bureau. It was developed to educate young students, parents, and teachers about the various stages of cotton production.

This was developed to allow students to experience the wonders of the cotton life cycle from inside the classroom.

Background Information:

View "From Field to Fabric in Forty Frames"

<http://www.cotton.org/pubs/cottoncounts/fieldtofabric/forty-frames.cfm>

After viewing the slide show provided by the National Cotton Council, we know that cotton undergoes many processes before it is in the form of the clothing or oil that we use daily. There are many important processes to identify and understand.

The growing and harvesting of cotton are the first steps in cotton production. It is important to explain the hard work the farmer puts into growing the crop. Also, that only certain environments are fit for growing cotton.

After harvest the cotton is transported to the gin in large trailers. After arrival, the ginning process takes place cleaning the cotton. The cotton is then packaged into bales to be stored until it is evaluated and then taken to a textile mill.

While at the textile mill, the cleaned cotton is spun and stretched into yarn. The yarn is then wound onto bobbins and dyed different colors. The yarn is taken to the loom where it is woven together to form fabric.

The material is made into different shapes and sizes. It is then either sold in bulk or made into garments. The garments are hand inspected before they leave the mill. The clothing is marketed and sold to consumers. This is the end of the adventure.

Level: Grade 3 – 4

Subjects/Standards:

- Standard 3 - Life Science
 - ◇ Benchmark 1: The student will develop an understanding of the characteristics of living things.

Indicator 2: The student observes life cycles of different living things.

- Standard 4 - Earth and Space Science
 - ◇ Benchmark 1: The student will describe properties of earth materials.

Indicator 1: The student observes, compares, and sorts earth materials.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Outcome 1: The students will illustrate the processes of cotton production through the supplied hand-outs.

Outcome 2: The students will discover the importance of the cotton gin by evaluating cotton usage in their lives.

New Vocabulary:

Cotton Gin
Bale
Boll
Mill
Weave

Cleo Cotton's Adventure Activities

Activity: Classroom Adventure

This activity is designed to allow every student to complete their own adventure based on Cleo's life. After showing, "Cleo Cotton's Big Adventure" Power Point, let the students ask any questions they have about the process.

Distribute the cut out hat pages. Have the students follow the directions on the page to assemble their very own "Big Adventure" hat. The students will put on their hats to prepare them to go on their adventure. After cutting out the cotton cards, hand them out to the students. Make sure the cards are in a random order. Give each student enough time to think about where in the adventure their card belongs.

Have the students get in a line in the correct order based on what they have previously learned in the Power Point. Once the students think they have the correct order, start at the beginning of the line and have each student say what card they have and why they think it goes in the position they are in.

Hopefully through receiving the information in a Power Point, through reenacting the process, and then clarifying their answers, the students will grasp the concept of cotton production well.

Have the students complete the map worksheet using the directions on the sheet.

Activity: What can a bale make?

Return to the slide about cotton bales in the Power Point presentation. Show the students what they look like, and explain to them that a bale weighs 480 pounds. Before hand have the four mystery cards hung up around the room. Put the actual information on the back side with the question mark covering it. This requires the students to flip the question mark card up to see the information.

Hand the worksheet out to the students and have them split up in four groups. Start each group on a different card and have them work around the room clock-wise. This will help keep the environment more organized. Have the students follow the directions on the handout and complete the assignment at their desk once they get the two blanks filled out from each card.

The drawing part of the handout can be as elaborate as you would like. They could just sketch the items with their pencils, or get more detailed with crayons or markers. This depends on how much time you want them to spend on their drawings.

Thanks to Cleo Cotton and Kailey, we now understand more about the process of cotton production!

Materials Needed:

- Cotton Power Point
- Cotton Cards
- Copies of Hat Page
- Copies of Map Worksheet
- Mystery Bale Cards
- Copies of Bale Card Handout

Optional Materials:

- Real items from Cotton Cards (cotton boll, fabric, etc.)

Equipment:

- Scissors
- Glue or Tape
- Markers or Crayons