



How We Use **WOOL**

by Elizabeth Wells

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

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Wool

Wool is a kind of soft fiber, or material. People use wool to make clothes, blankets, and other things. Wool is thick and strong. Wool keeps people warm when the weather is cold.

Something made out of wool is called “woolen.” When the wind blows, you might wear a woolen scarf.



Woolen scarf



Warm Clothes

Wool is good for making many kinds of clothes. There are woolen hats. There are woolen sweaters. There are woolen socks. You can even wear a woolen coat or woolen pants! People started using wool to make clothes a long time ago.



Woolen hat



Woolen sweater



Cutting Fleece

People make wool from the fleece, or hair, of animals. Usually, people use fleece from sheep to make wool. Farmers wait until the sheep's fleece grows long and thick. The farmers use special **sharpening** tools to get ready to cut the sheep's fleece. When the fleece is long enough, farmers cut it off. It is like cutting a person's hair.





Combing Wool

Next, people wash the wool. They must take out any small pieces of dirt that are stuck inside the wool. Then they must comb the wool to smooth it out. Long ago, people used special wooden tools to comb wool. Now big machines comb wool. But some people still like to comb wool by hand.



 Wool

▶ Making Yarn

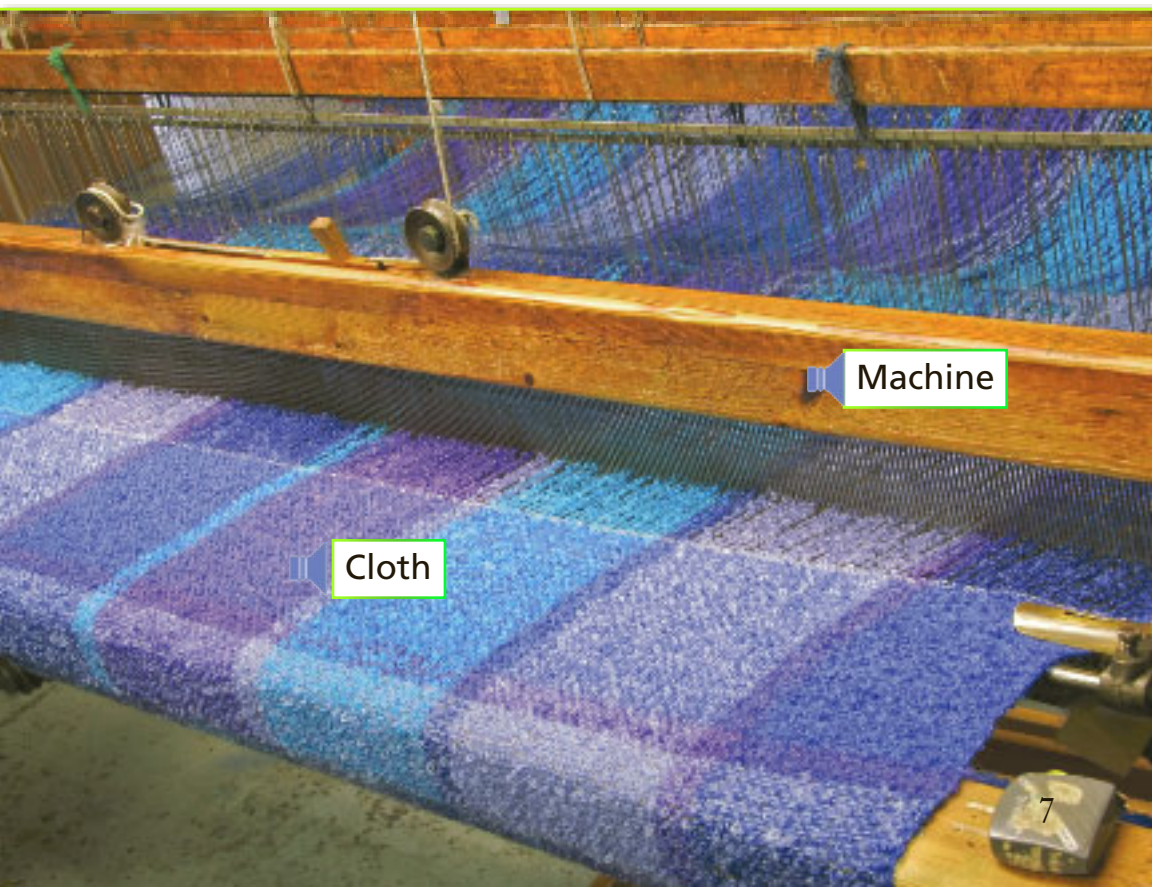
After people comb the wool, they pull it into long **strands**. Then they make **yarn** by **spinning**, or twisting, the strands. Some people spin wool into yarn by hand. They use a spinning wheel to spin wool into yarn. But most of the time, big machines in factories do this work.





Making Cloth

Machines can also make yarn into cloth. A special **dye** is used to make the yarn colorful. Then machines **weave** the yarn into cloth. This cloth is used for making clothes such as scarves, socks, and hats.



Machine

Cloth




Kinds of Sheep

Most wool comes from sheep. There are sheep in the United States. There are also sheep all over the world. Not all sheep are the same. There are different kinds of sheep, and they make different kinds of wool.



Sheep



One kind of sheep is the Merino sheep. This sheep comes from Spain. A Merino sheep has a white coat that is very thick. Merino wool is very soft and pretty. People like to wear clothes made from merino wool.



Merino sheep



Cashmere Goats

Some special kinds of wool do not come from a sheep. Cashmere wool comes from Cashmere goats. People need to use fleece from many goats just to make one sweater. Cashmere wool is very soft and very warm. The softness of cashmere cannot be duplicated!



Cashmere goat





Angora Rabbits

There is another kind of wool that does not come from a sheep. Angora wool comes from Angora rabbits. This wool is soft and fluffy. People who wear Angora wool sometimes say it feels **delicious!** Most Angora wool comes from rabbits in the countries of France and England.



Angora rabbit





Angora Goats

People also make wool from Angora goats. This kind of wool is called mohair. Angora goats have curly fleece. Most Angora wool comes from goats in the countries of Turkey and the United States. It comes from African countries, too.



Angora goat



Alpacas

Alpacas have soft wool, too. Alpacas are animals that live mostly in the country of Peru. There are two kinds of alpacas. One kind of alpaca has long, smooth hair. The other kind of alpaca has short, rough hair. Clothes made from alpaca wool can keep people dry when it rains or snows.



Alpacas



Amazing Wool

Long ago, people started to use wool to make clothes. At first, people made clothes by hand. Then people made machines to do this work. Today, people still use wool to make many clothes. People also use wool to make carpets and blankets. Wool is amazing!



Woolen socks



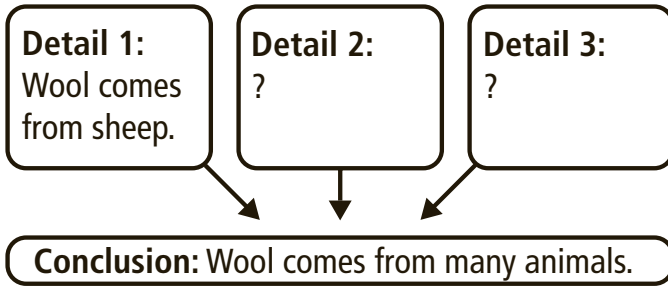
Responding



TARGET SKILL

Conclusions

What animals does wool come from? Copy the chart. Add details from the book that show what animals wool comes from.



Write About It

Text to Text This book tells how to make wool. Think of another book you read that tells how to make something. Write a few sentences giving instructions on how to make that thing.



TARGET VOCABULARY

delicious
duplicated
dye
sharpening

spinning
strands
weave
yarn



TARGET SKILL

Conclusions Use details to figure out more about the text.



TARGET STRATEGY

Summarize Stop to tell important ideas as you read.



GENRE Informational text gives facts about a topic.

Level: M

DRA: 28

Genre:

Informational

Strategy:

Summarize

Skill:

Conclusions

Word Count: 654

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