

# British Wool LEARNING



# The Journey of your Jumper

## The Wool Process

Our clothes can be made from lots of different materials. Some clothes, such as a jumper, are made from wool. Where does the wool come from and why is it so lovely and warm to wear?

From sheep  
to jumper!



## The Wool Process



### Where does wool come from?

Wool comes from sheep which have a thick woolly coat called a **fleece**.



### How does wool keep us warm?

Sheep stay warm in winter because their thick coat traps warm air to stop warmth from leaving their body. If we wear a sheep's wool jumper it does the same for us!



### How do we get the wool from the sheep?

In the warmer months, the sheep will have their fleeces shaved off. This is called **shearing** and is a little bit like a hair cut!

The fleece is then sent to the British Wool Marketing Board where it is sorted into different types and qualities. This is called **grading**.



### How do we make the wool into a jumper?

Wool taken straight from a sheep can be dirty. The wool must be cleaned to get rid of the dirt and any grease. This is called **scouring**. The clean wool is then **carded** and **combed** to get tangles out and to make the wool straighter.

Big machines are used to **spin** the wool into long strands called **yarn**.

Wool yarn can be turned into lots of different colours by adding special **dyes**.

Wool is used to make lots of things like hats, gloves, blankets, carpets, scarves and, of course, jumpers.

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## Wool Facts

**FACT:** A sheep is a living thing

Your favourite wool jumper might be a non-living thing but the wool used to make it comes from a sheep and sheep are animals which means they are living things.

**FACT:** Wool is a natural product

Because wool comes from a sheep, which is an animal, it is a natural product. Natural means that it comes from nature. The opposite of natural is man-made which means it has been created by people. Some of the clothes we wear are made from man-made material.

**FACT:** Jumpers have been made from wool a long time

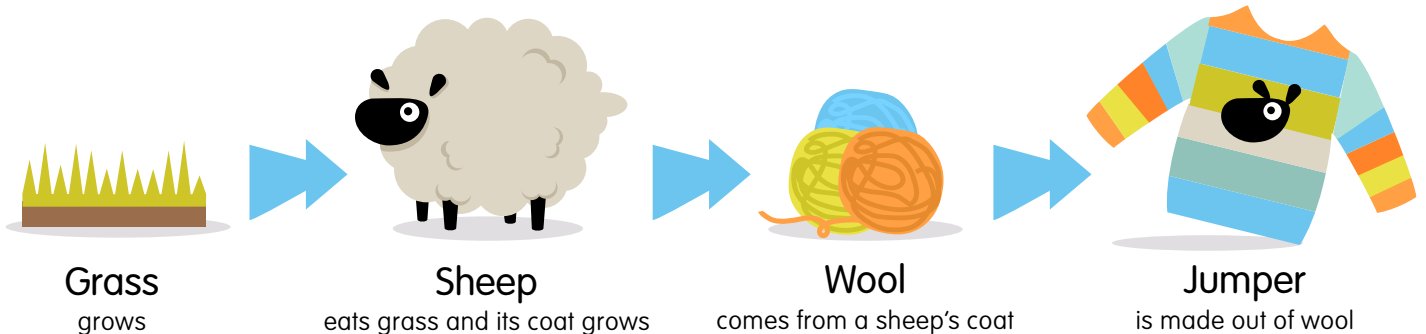
Wool has been used to make many different types of clothes for a very, very long time. Stone Age people used wool to protect them from the weather.

**FACT:** A sheep can grow lots of wool

As long as there is grass to eat, a sheep will grow a new coat every year.

**FACT:** There is no such thing as a blue sheep

Although the wool used to make our woolly jumper comes in many different colours, when a sheep is sheared the wool is a white, cream, beige, brown or black colour. To make wool colourful, special dyes are added to it.





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### Wool Process Pictures

1



**Shearing**

Cutting the fleece from the sheep

2



**Grading**

Sorting the wool into types

3



**Auction**

Buying and selling the wool

4



**Scouring**

Washing the dirty wool

5



**Carding**

Taking tangles out of the wool

6



**Combing**

Making the wool straighter

7



**Spinning**

Twisting the wool to make strong yarns

8



**Weaving**

Joining the wool together to make cloth or carpet

9



**Dyeing**

Making the wool different colours

