

The Feel of Cotton

Purpose

To help students to understand that cotton can serve many purposes and take on different textures depending on how it is processed and how it is intended to be used

Competencies

Pondering, Processing, and Applying Experiences

- Draw on everyday experiences and apply that knowledge to other situations.
- Seek information for further understanding.
- Generate ideas and suggestions and make predictions.

Persistence, Attentiveness, and Responsibility

- Demonstrate the ability to remain engaged in an experience.
- Develop a sense of purpose and the ability to follow through.

Imagination, Creativity, and Invention

- Approach tasks and experiences with increasing flexibility, imagination, and inventiveness.
- Use or combine materials/strategies in novel ways while exploring and solving problems.

Materials Provided

Sample pairs of fabric made of cotton (knit fabric, woven fabric, terry cloth, denim, chenille, etc.) approximately 3 inch square

Bags to prepare sets of cotton fabric samples

“Five Little Cotton Bolls”

Materials Needed

From Cotton to T-Shirt, Robin Nelson, (ISBN: 08225-4661-2)

Cotton Is a Miracle of Nature, North Carolina Cotton Producers Association

(Available on the Internet at [http://www.nccotton.org/.](http://www.nccotton.org/))

Teaching Strategy

Preparation: Sort fabric squares and items made from cotton into two identical sets. Place each set in a bag. Review information in *Cotton Is a Miracle of Nature* about how cotton is grown and produced as well as how it is processed and the many ways it can be used and developed as types of fabric.

1. Read aloud and discuss, From Cotton to T-Shirt. Show samples of various fabrics from one of the prepared sample bags to the class. Ask students to identify the fabric used to make blue jeans and discuss or hypothesize the uses of the other types of fabrics displayed.
2. Lead a class discussion about cotton and how it is grown and processed for many uses including, making fabric for our clothing.
3. Instruct students to take turns using their sense of touch to investigate items in one of the prepared bags. Have each student select one item at a time and describe how it feels.
4. Once the student has isolated one item and described its feel, allow him/her to reach into the other bag and to seek out the matching item based only on the way it feels.
5. The student can then remove both items from the bags and check for accuracy. Students continue to take turns with this activity until all have had a turn. Time permitting every student can participate in the activity until he/she has matched all items in the bags.
6. Using "Five Little Cotton Bolls," lead students in the finger play,

Suggestion: Once students are familiar with the activity, the bags containing cotton items can be placed in a learning center for extended student use.

“Five Little Cotton Bolls”

Five little cotton bolls sitting in the sun,
(wiggle five fingers)

First one said, “I’m having lots of fun!”
(one finger up) (hands and fingers waving)

Second one said, “The sun is really hot!”
(two fingers up) (hands fanning face)

Third one said, “In the shade it’s not!”
(three fingers up) (wrap arms around body and shiver)

Fourth one said, “I’m singing and humming.”
(four fingers up) (move head side to side)

Fifth one said, “I see a cotton picker coming!”
(five fingers up) (shade eyes and point to an imaginary cotton picker)

Cotton picker comes.
(fingers form a “v” and push away from body)

Farmer wears a grin.
(pretend to sit tall and drive a tractor while smiling)

Five little cotton bolls headed to the gin!
(wiggle five fingers and move hand away from body)

