Do YOU know the difference between WOOL & COTTON?

Wool and cotton are both used to make many things, including clothes we wear, but come from very different places.

Wool comes from sheep. Alpacas and llamas also produce fiber. Sheep are usually shorn once a year. Shorn is another word for shearing sheep, or cutting their wool off. Shearing a sheep is like getting your hair cut! The wool shorn from animals is called fleece.

Wool provides excellent protection from cold and wet weather. Even if your wool sweater gets wet from snow or rain, it will still keep you warm.

Cotton is a soft fiber that grows around the seeds of the cotton plant. It is the most common natural textile in use today.

Cotton is planted late in the spring and harvested in the fall. Cotton seeds are sticky and sometimes difficult to separate from the cotton fiber. Before the invention of the cotton gin the process was extremely labor-intensive. The gin, short for engine, could do the work 10 times faster than by hand.

Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin in 1793. One sheep produces 8-10 pounds of wool per year.

Sheep are the only source of lanolin - grease that comes from wool before it is washed. Lanolin is used in lotions and cosmetics.

A module of cotton is harvested in the field. The module is processed at a cotton gin and is made into smaller bales.

A bale of cotton weighs 480 pounds.

U.S. currency is made of 75% cotton.

Cotton vs Wool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cotton vs Wool</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cotton comes from plants.</td>
<td>Wool comes from sheep.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clothes made of cotton are cooler and can be worn in the summer.</td>
<td>Clothes made from wool are used in the winter as they provide warmth.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cotton garments can be easily washed.</td>
<td>Woolen garments are dry-cleaned.</td>
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One pound of wool can make 10 miles of yarn.
The cotton plant belongs to the same family as hollyhock, okra and hibiscus.

Cotton seeds are fed to cattle and crushed to make oil, rubber and plastics.

Complete the crossword puzzle!

**Across:**
3. Common natural textile is ___
8. Cotton seeds are crushed to make ___
11. Cotton ___ is found in field
12. Sheep are ___ once a year
13. Wool garments are ___ cleaned
15. ___ of cotton weighs 480 pounds
16. Cotton grows on a ___
19. ___ and llamas produce fiber
20. Eli ___ invented cotton gin
21. US ___ is 75% cotton

**Down:**
1. Wool provides ___ from weather
2. Cotton is in the ___ family
4. Cotton clothes are ___ to wear
5. Cotton is planted in ___
6. Cotton seeds are fed to ___
7. Cotton is a soft ___
9. Wool is also called ___
10. Wool grows on ___
14. Cotton ___ can be washed
17. One pound wool makes 10 ___ yarn
18. Wool clothes are ___ than cotton

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**Draw your own cotton plant cycle**

**Seed** → **Sprout** → **Flower** → **Cotton Plant**