



## 2023 Colorado Literacy Project Program Guide

### *The Woolly Way: Papou and the story of Lantern Ridge*

**Overview:** Thank you for participating in the Colorado Literacy Project - an opportunity to bring agriculture to preK-5th grade students, while reinforcing multiple academic standards. Again this year, we are proud to use a new children's book, written and published specifically for this Literacy Project. This is a FREE program from Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom (CoAITC). Special thank you to all our sponsors for making this program possible.

**Book and Sponsors:** *The Woolly Way: Papou and the story of Lantern Ridge*, was written by Rachel Gabel and illustrated by Liz Banman-Munstersteiger. The publication of this book is a joint project of Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom ([GrowingYourFuture.com](http://GrowingYourFuture.com)), the Colorado Sheep & Wool Authority ([ColoradoSheep.org](http://ColoradoSheep.org)), the Bessie Minor Swift Foundation, the Colorado State Forest Service ([csfs.colostate.edu](http://csfs.colostate.edu)), and various individual sponsors and donors including the Colorado Wool Growers Association. *The Woolly Way: Papou and the Story of Lantern Ridge* tells of the role sheep and shepherds have played in Colorado, historically to present-day, including cultural and land management contributions. The illustrations are based on historic and modern photos of sheep ranching in western Colorado.

**Standard Connections:** This project connects with 2020 Colorado Academic Standards for the following content areas:

- 1. Reading, Writing, and Communicating:** Reading for All Purposes; Oral Expression and Listening; Writing and Composition
- 2. Visual Arts:** Observe and Learn to Comprehend; Invent and Discover to Create
- 3. Science:** Physical Science; Life Science

**Book donation:** Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom is sending one FREE copy of the book for EACH participating class to keep. The books could be placed in the class or school library, or kept by the teacher as a resource for future use. CoAITC will also send one copy of the book to the volunteer to read from in front of the class. Volunteers may keep the book as a gift from CoAITC in appreciation for participating in this program.

**What's in the school box?** The contact person for each school/class will receive a box from CoAITC. The box includes one book for each class, one Wool Samples Kit for each class, tree cookies (small cross-sections of trees), a copy of this program guide, copies of five student activities, one copy of the CoAITC Wool & Sheep Activity Book, and a postcard about Project Learning Tree. Feel free to make extra copies as needed.

**Thank you cards:** Included in the box with the books to participating schools is also a self-addressed, stamped, thank you card. Teachers are kindly asked to complete this thank you card with your students and send it to CoAITC. CoAITC will then distribute the thank you cards to the program sponsors. If CoAITC found you a guest reader, an addressed, stamped, thank you card has been included for that individual as well.

**Photos:** If you have the ability and permission to take photos during the visit, please do so and send them to [Jennifer@GrowingYourFuture.com](mailto:Jennifer@GrowingYourFuture.com). Photos become property of Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom, will be sent to sponsors, and used for CoAITC publication and promotional purposes.

**Access to Electronic Files:** All the information, files, and activities presented in this document are available in electronic format in a Google Drive folder. Use this link [bit.ly/3w7nhW8](https://bit.ly/3w7nhW8) or scan this QR code to access the files in the Google Drive folder.



**Read-Aloud Recording, Author Q&A, and Tips & Tricks:** A read-aloud recording of *The Woolly Way* is available in the Google Drive Folder. Additional video resources also in the folder include a Q&A with author Rachel Gabel and Tips & Tricks for the classroom visit. Feel free to use these resources prior to the classroom presentation or with the students.

**Questions/Help:** Please contact Lucee Church, CoAITC education program coordinator, at [Lucee@GrowingYourFuture.com](mailto:Lucee@GrowingYourFuture.com) or 970-361-3281 for any questions or assistance with this program.

**Scheduling Classroom Presentation Experience:** It is the responsibility of the volunteer guest reader and the teacher to schedule the classroom presentation experience at a day/time that works best. We recommend the teacher and volunteer coordinate prior to the visit about any activities that may be completed during the visit and any building visitor requirements.

#### Background Agricultural Connections:

- Colorado is home to approximately 430,000 sheep and lambs, ranking 3rd in the United States.
- Colorado ranks 2nd in the U.S. for wool production, producing 2.18 million pounds of wool in 2022.
- Colorado has nearly 24.5 million acres of forests.
- There are 11 national forests and 2 national grasslands within the borders of Colorado.
- The White River National Forest, featured in *The Woolly Way*, measures 2.3 million acres and is located in the heart of the Colorado Rockies.
- Well managed livestock grazing by cattle, sheep, goats, horses, and burros, benefits ecosystems and lowers the risks of wildfires.
- The Bureau of Land Management authorizes livestock grazing on 7.8 million acres in Colorado. These lands support livestock management on about 2,400 separate grazing allotments by more than 1,000 ranching operations.

**Completing the Classroom Reading Experience:** It is recommended that the volunteer/teacher read the book prior to the visit to become familiar with the story. Facts about Colorado forests and livestock grazing, aspen carvings, and a vocabulary word list are provided in the back pages of the book. It is anticipated that the classroom presentation experience will take about 45-50 minutes.

- 1. Google Slide presentation.** To assist both in-person and virtual visits, a Google Slide presentation of all the book pages has been provided to display the pages on a bigger screen ([bit.ly/3XCP6ld](https://bit.ly/3XCP6ld)). Guest readers may also simply hold up the book to allow students to see the illustrations.
- 2. Introductions.** Guest reader introduces themselves by telling students a little about themselves, their connection to agriculture, and sharing any pictures/artifacts of their farm and family.

3. **Vocabulary.** The vocabulary word list is provided on the Google Slides. Go through the words and their definitions with students.
4. **Introduce the book.** *The Woolly Way: Papou and the story of Lantern Ridge* tells the story of the role sheep and shepherds have played in Colorado, historically to present-day. It is based on the Theos family, who immigrated from Greece to Meeker, Colorado in the 1900s. The Theos family has raised sheep in western Colorado for many generations. Each year, the sheep are herded on a similar path - an annual cycle for the different seasons. During the winter months, they graze in vast pastures in the desert. In the spring, they are herded to the shearing shed where their wool is shorn and collected before the sheep go to the ranch for lambing. In the early summer months, shepherds trail the sheep and lambs to grazing allotments in the White River National Forest. Throughout the next several months, the sheep are herded to different areas of the forest, grazing the tall and plentiful grass. Livestock grazing benefits ecosystems and lowers the risks of wildfires. Before winter, the sheep are collected and trailed back down the mountain to their winter pastures. *As the students listen to the story, ask them to be pondering these two questions: What do you notice? What do you wonder?*
5. **Read the book.** Read the book slowly and in a loud clear voice. *Engage* the students by taking time to show the

illustrations as you go. Point out the vocabulary words as you read. For younger students, you may have to read more slowly.

6. **Check for understanding.** After reading the book, ask students these questions:
  - What did you notice in the story?
  - What did you wonder about the story?
  - Where does wool come from?
  - What do the shearers do? What does the rousey do?
  - Why are the sheep herded to the forest?
  - What was the purpose of the dogs in the story?
  - Have you ever seen a carving in a tree? Explain to students that aspen carvings help archaeologists establish the history of people and how they used land in an area. Today it is illegal to carve on aspen trees in national forests and grasslands.
7. **Activities.** Complete any of the provided activities with students after reading the book. Discuss with teacher prior to visit to make sure time and copies/supplies are available.

**Teacher and Volunteer Survey:** All teachers and volunteers are kindly asked to complete a Google Forms survey following the visit (paper copy provided, use this link [bit.ly/3CCji7l](https://bit.ly/3CCji7l), or scan this QR code). The general results will be reported to sponsors and will be used to guide future projects. You could win a \$100 Amazon Gift Card!



**Activities and Content Connections:** A series of activities have been developed to complement the book and the classroom presentation experience. Additional lessons from the Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix have also been identified. Activities can be completed by the teacher or the volunteer guest reader with students before, during, or after the classroom presentation of the book. Link to electronic files: [bit.ly/3w7nhW8](https://bit.ly/3w7nhW8)

**Activities included in the box:**

**2023 Literacy Project Creative Contest - Why are Colorado public lands important?:** Students choose a creative way (draw a picture, write a poem, or write an opinion or persuasive piece) to describe why Colorado public lands are important. (Visual Arts: K.OLC.1; 1.OLC.1; 2.OLC.1; 3.IDC.1; 4.IDC.1; 5.IDC.1; CCSS: W.1.1, W.2.1, W.3.1, W.4.1, W.5.1) [bit.ly/3khSFyC](https://bit.ly/3khSFyC)

**Woolly Senses:** This activity has students use their senses to compare and contrast the provided samples of carded and scoured wool. (Science: 2-PS1-1) [bit.ly/3X6aKy4](https://bit.ly/3X6aKy4)

**Woolly Uses:** This activity highlights ways that sheep are used to produce common items. (Science: 1-LS1-1; 4-LS1-1). [bit.ly/3X2xlvr](https://bit.ly/3X2xlvr)

**Project Learning Tree - Tree Cookies:** What story does a tree tell? Students will trace environmental and historical changes using a cross-section of a tree, or "tree cookie." CoAITC is providing 1 tree cookie per 5 students, plus 1 for each teacher. The full PLT Tree Cookie lesson is available in the electronic files folder or by using this link: [bit.ly/3vUtvbV](https://bit.ly/3vUtvbV) (Science: 1-LS1-1; 2-LS2-1; 3-LS3-2; 3-LS4-4; 4-LS1-1)

**The Woolly Way Vocabulary:** Students use vocabulary from *The Woolly Way* book to complete a crossword puzzle. [bit.ly/3vW34T9](https://bit.ly/3vW34T9)

**Wool & Sheep Activity Book:** One copy of this book has been provided in each box. Copies of any pages can be made for students, or order free copies of the book using the provided order form or by visiting: [bit.ly/3GTr7sc](https://bit.ly/3GTr7sc)

**Additional Lessons from the Curriculum Matrix:**

**Hands-On With Wool (K-5):** Spinning, dyeing, weaving, and felting wool can easily be done in the classroom. This activity provides instructions and a materials list, making it easy to prepare a hands-on wool project for your class. Wool processing is a topic that connects easily to lessons in history and science. <https://agclassroom.org/matrix/resource/402/>

**Bartering Through the Seasons (3-5):** Students investigate the seasons, explore the process of wool production, and discover how trade and barter have historically allowed people to satisfy their needs and wants. <https://agclassroom.org/matrix/lesson/230/>

**Baa, Ram, Ewe...Sheep Tales (K-2):** Students explore the process of making wool into cloth. <https://agclassroom.org/matrix/lesson/133/>

**At Home on the Range (3-5):** Students investigate grazing by growing their own grass to represent a beef or sheep ranch. <https://agclassroom.org/matrix/lesson/554/>

**A Tail of Two Sheep (K-2):** Students compare and contrast hair sheep and wool sheep, discover the reasons why farmers raise sheep, and explore ways farmers meet the needs of the sheep they raise. <https://agclassroom.org/matrix/lesson/806/>

**Animal Life Cycles (K-2):** Students investigate six major livestock species, discover that animals need air, space, food, water, and shelter to survive, and explore the life cycle of a farm animal. <https://agclassroom.org/matrix/lesson/81/>

**Sheep See, Sheep Do (3-5):** Students explore the difference between inherited and acquired traits and discover why knowledge of inherited and acquired traits is important to agriculture. <https://agclassroom.org/matrix/lesson/404/>