



COTTON

Elementary



Cotton is a fiber used to make cloth and other textiles. Cotton grows on shrub-like plants and belongs to the mallow family. Relatives are the hollyhock and okra. Some of the top cotton-growing countries include China, India, the United States, and Pakistan.

Wild cotton plants may reach a height of 20 feet. As a crop, cotton plants grow only 3 to 6 feet tall.



After harvest, the cotton is taken to a gin. At the gin, a machine separates the fibers from the seeds. Next, a machine cards the fibers, or combs them into the same direction. Machines then pull and twist the fibers into long strands, called yarn. Finally, a machine weaves the yarn into cloth.

People use cottonseeds to make oil for cooking, cosmetics, and soap. Livestock eat cottonseeds and the leftover parts of cotton plants.



Cotton was difficult to process until 1793, when U.S. inventor Eli Whitney created the cotton gin. This machine separated cotton fibers from the seeds.



LOTS OF THINGS ARE MADE OF COTTON!



Check out this video
by the National Cotton
Council about what
cotton is and how it goes
from field to fabric.

Name one pest that harms cotton.

Watch the video. List eight items
made from cotton other than clothes:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Who invented the cotton gin? What is gin short for?

NOVEMBER COTTON FLOWER

BY JEAN TOOMER

Boll-weevils coming, and the winter's cold.
Made cotton-stalks look rusty, seasons old,
And cotton, scarce as any southern snow
Was vanishing; the branch, so pinched and slow,
Failed in its function as the autumn rake;
Drouth fighting soil had caused the soil to take
All water from the streams; dead birds were found
In wells a hundred feet below the ground—
Such was the season when the flower bloomed.
Old folks were startled, and it soon assumed
Significance. Superstition saw
Something it had never seen before:
Brown eyes that loved without a trace of fear,
Beauty so sudden for that time of year.



DID YOU KNOW?

Cotton was named the state
fiber of Oklahoma on April 19,
2021. Frederick Elementary
3rd graders wrote letters to
help pass this resolution.

ONE BALE OF COTTON MAKES...

- 215 pairs of jeans
- 690 terry bath towels
- 1,217 men's T-shirts
- 1,256 pillowcases
- 313,600 100 dollar bills