



COTTON

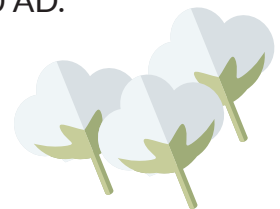
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL



Cotton is a fiber used to make cloth and other textiles. Cotton grows on shrublike plants. Cotton plants belong to the mallow family and are related to the hollyhock and okra. Cotton plants grow in warm areas across the world. Some of the top cotton-growing countries include China, India, the United States, and Pakistan.

In the wild, cotton plants may reach a height of 20 feet. As a crop, cotton plants grow only 3 to 6 feet tall. Cotton plants produce white flowers that turn red and then fall away. The flowers leave behind a green pod, or fruit, called a boll. Inside each boll are 20 to 40 seeds. White fibers, which grow from the seeds' skins, surround the seeds. Eventually, the bolls burst open to reveal the fibers inside. Before cotton fibers may be made into cloth, they need to be cleaned and ginned. In ginning, 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. The yarn may be treated with chemicals, dyed, or combined with other types of fiber. Finally, a machine weaves the yarn into cloth.

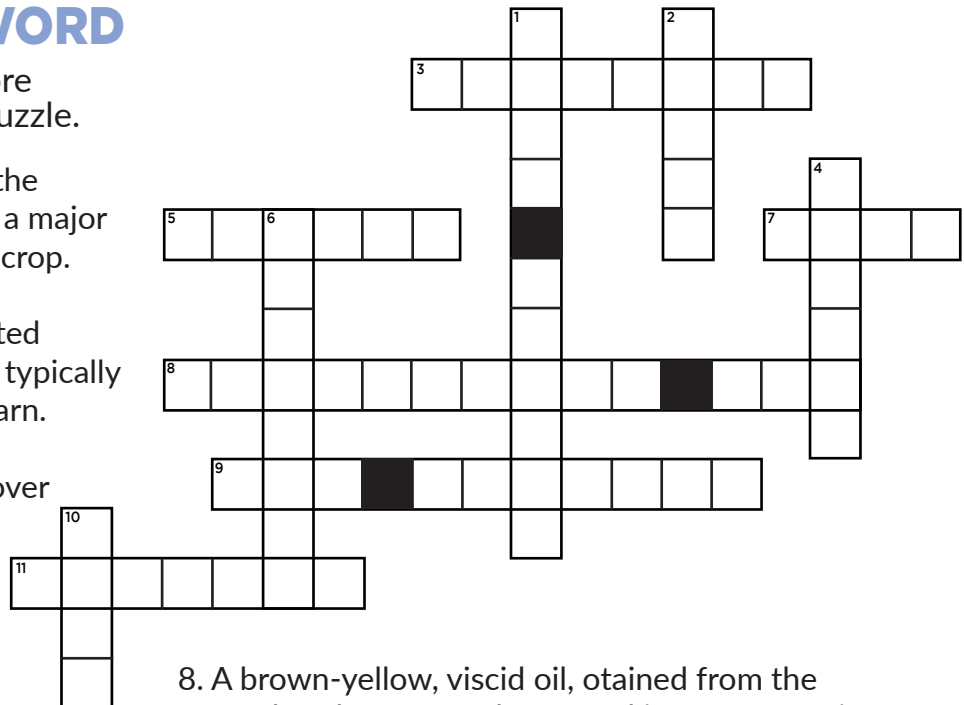
Cotton is one of the most popular fibers worldwide. It is used to make clothing, sheets, towels, carpets, sails, and many other textiles, or cloth goods. Cotton cloth may be light or heavy. It is easily washable and comfortable to wear. People use cottonseeds to make oil for cooking, cosmetics, and soap. Livestock eat cottonseeds and the leftover parts of cotton plants. People in ancient India, China, and Egypt grew and used cotton. Early peoples in the Americas also grew cotton. Arab traders brought cotton to Europe by about 1000 AD. 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.



COTTON CROSSWORD

Watch the video below before completing the crossword puzzle.

1. A small insect that feeds on the fibers of the cotton boll. It is a major pest of the American cotton crop.
2. A slender and greatly elongated natural or synthetic filament typically capable of being spun into yarn.
3. The things people wear to cover their bodies and are usually made from cloth.
4. Traditionally seed cotton has been stored in these from the time it was harvested until it was ginned.
5. A soft, white, and fibrous substance that surrounds the seeds of a tropical and subtropical plant.
6. Types of cloth and woven fabric.
7. The rounded seed capsule of plants such as cotton or flax.



8. A brown-yellow, viscid oil, obtained from the seed of the cotton plant. Used in manufacturing soaps, hydrogenated fats, lubricants, cosmetics, and in medicine chiefly as a laxative.
9. An American inventor, widely known for inventing the cotton gin.
10. Is a standard-sized and weighted pack of compressed cotton lint after ginning.
11. The process or period of gathering crops.



HOW COTTON IS PROCESSED IN FACTORIES

Through the centuries, cotton fiber was traditionally processed by hand, until the early 18th century when the first automated processing machine was invented. Check out this cool video by How It's Made about the process of cotton in factories.

FUN FACT!

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

