

NEW MEXICO
FARM & RANCH
HERITAGE
MUSEUM

ALL ABOUT SHEEP



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS





All About Sheep

Grades 3-5

The New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum currently has two breeds of sheep, Navajo-Churro (picture to the left) and Debouillet (below). In this activity students will learn basic vocabulary and sheep facts.

Vocabulary:

Ewe
Fleece
Flock
Forage
Herbivore
Lamb
Lanolin

Mutton
Predator
Ram
Range
Shearing
Shepherd
Wool





Sheep Facts:

- Sheep are ruminants. They have 4 parts to their stomach.
- Sheep eat grass, seeds, and plants. They are called herbivores.
- Sheep live in groups called flocks. Ranchers move the flocks from place to place so they don't damage the land.
- Sheep must be protected from predators. Predators include coyote, mountain lion, bobcat, and fox. Guard dogs are often used to help protect the flock.
- There are over 150 types of sheep. Some are raised for their meat. Meat from an adult sheep is called mutton. Other sheep are raised for their wool.
- Sheep provide us with wool that we use to make clothing. Shearing takes place at least once a year (sometimes twice), usually in the spring. The shearer can cut one complete piece of wool off called a fleece using electric hand clippers (trimmers).
- After the wool is off the sheep it is then washed and dried. Now the wool can be carded so it can be spun into yarn. From there it can be woven, knitted, or crocheted to make fabric.





Navajo-Churro

- First breed of sheep in the Southwest. Spaniards brought to New Mexico in the late 1500's.
- Provided milk, meat, and fiber.
- Hardy breed, does well in the desert southwest.
- Churro wool is preferred for weaving by the Navajo Indians.
- Not a soft wool so best suited to make rugs.

Debouillet

- Breed of sheep developed here in New Mexico (Tatum).
- Cross between two different types of sheep - Delaine Merino and Rambouillet.
- Fine wool – primarily used for clothing because it is soft.
- Debouillet sheep are usually white in color.
- Debouillet has a high content of lanolin. Lanolin is grease that helps keep the sheep dry when it rains. Lanolin is used in lotions and it helps to moisturize our skin.



Fill in the blank:

1. Sheep are sheared and the fleece is made into _____.
2. Sheep are usually sheared in the _____.
3. Sheep provide what fabric? _____.
4. How many parts are in a sheep's stomach? _____.
5. Sheep eat plants and are called _____.
6. Navajo Churro sheep were brought to the southwest by who?
_____.
7. Navajo Churro Sheep wool is used to make what? _____.
8. Where was the Debouillet Sheep developed? _____.
9. Lanolin helps to _____ our skin.
10. What do we call sheep meat? _____.
11. What color are Debouillet? _____.
12. Who protects the flock? _____.
13. How often are sheep sheared? _____.

(Answers: 1-yarn, 2-spring, 3-wool, 4-four, 5-herbivores, 6-the Spanish, 7-rugs, 8-New Mexico, 9-moisturize, 10-lamb or mutton, 11-white, 12-guard dog, 13-once or twice a year)

Vocabulary:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. _____ A female sheep | a) wool |
| 2. _____ the group sheep live in | b) lamb |
| 3. _____ a baby sheep | c) predator |
| 4. _____ a male sheep | d) shearing |
| 5. _____ animal that kills sheep | e) mutton |
| 6. _____ removing the wool | f) range |
| 7. _____ fiber from the sheep | g) ewe |
| 8. _____ person who cares for sheep | h) forage |
| 9. _____ meat from an adult sheep | i) fleece |
| 10. _____ where the sheep roam | j) flock |
| 11. _____ coat of wool | k) ram |
| 12. _____ what sheep feed on | l) shepherd |

(Answers: 1-g, 2-j, 3-b, 4-k, 5-c, 6-d, 7-a, 8-l, 9-e, 10-f, 11-i, 12-h)

Creating Yarn

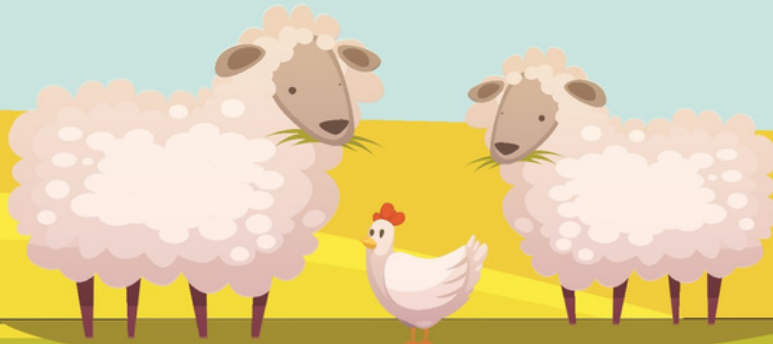
J	L	F	L	E	E	C	E	L	J	I	X
W	A	R	P	C	J	B	H	A	A	C	A
O	N	A	W	A	F	H	O	M	I	F	C
O	O	M	D	R	K	I	O	B	T	L	Y
L	L	H	J	D	Z	P	F	N	G	O	K
L	I	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	C	E
U	N	V	M	E	W	E	X	W	N	K	C
U	C	X	S	H	E	A	R	U	M	E	M

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → and ↓ .

CARD
EWE
FLEECE
FLOCK

HOOF
LAMB
LANOLIN
RAM

SHEAR
SHEPHERD
WOOL





3-5 Standards:

NGSS

3-LS3-1. Inheritance and Variation of Traits: Life Cycles and Traits

Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence that plants and animals have traits inherited from parents and that variation of these traits exists in a group of similar organisms.

3-LS4-3 Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.

4-LS1-1 Structure, Function, and Information Processing

Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.

5-PS3-1 Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems

Use models to describe that energy in animals' food (used for body repair, growth, and motion and to maintain body warmth) was once energy from the sun.

English Language Arts

RI.3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

RI.3.7 Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).

W.4.1 Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

RI.5.7 Draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.

Social Studies

Strand - History

K-4 Benchmark I-A—New Mexico: Describe how contemporary and historical people and events have influenced New Mexico communities and regions.

3 - 1. Describe how the lives and contributions of people of New Mexico influenced local communities and regions.

4 - 1. Identify important issues, events, and individuals from New Mexico pre-history to the present.

K-4 Benchmark I-B—United States: Understand connections among historical events, people, and symbols significant to United States history and cultures.

3 - 1. Describe local events and their connections to state history.

4 - 1. Describe local events and their connections and relationships to national history.

5-8 Benchmark 1-A. New Mexico: explore and explain how people and events have influenced the development of New Mexico up to the present day:

5 - 1. describe changes of governance of New Mexico (e.g., indigenous, Spanish, Mexican, French, Texan, confederate, United States);

2. explain the reasons for European exploration of the Americas.

