



Cotton Life Cycle

Audience: K-2

Activity Length: 1 hour

TEKS:

- ELA:
 - Kindergarten: K.1D, K.5C, K.5F, K.5H, K.6B, K.6C, K.6D, K.6F, K.11A
 - 1st Grade: 1.1D, 1.6C, 1.6F, 1.6H, 1.7C, 1.7D, 1.7F, 1.12A
 - 2nd Grade: 2.1D, 2.6C, 2.6F, 2.6H, 2.7C, 2.7D, 2.7F, 2.12A
- Science:
 - Kindergarten: K.1D, K.1E
 - 1st Grade: 1.1D, 1.1E
 - 2nd Grade: 2.1D, 2.1E
- Social Studies:
 - Kindergarten: K.12B, K.13D, K.14A, K.14D
 - 1st Grade: 1.16D, 1.17D
 - 2nd Grade: 2.7C, 2.13B, 2.16F

Objectives:

Students will be able to explain and demonstrate the life cycle of cotton.
Students will be able to state where their clothes came from, naming cotton specifically.

Introduction:

Cotton is the #1 crop in Texas, with over five million acres harvested annually. It is important for students to develop an understanding of this crop and the importance of it within our state. Through station rotations, students will grow an understanding of the development of cotton and the different ways we use it.

Materials Needed:

- *Where Did My Clothes Come From?* By Chris Butterworth
- Life Cycle of Cotton Poster
- Cotton in each stage of development
- Magnifying Glass
- *Cotton Life Cycle Observations Worksheet*
- *Cotton Doodle Worksheet*
- *Cotton Writing Worksheet*



Activity Outline:

1. Guided Reading

Read the book *Where Did My Clothes Come From?* By Chris Butterworth. As you read, ask the following questions:

Pre-Reading:

- Describe what you see on the front and back cover of the book.
- Hearing the title of the book, *Where Did My Clothes Come From*, what do you predict the book will be about?

During:

- The book says that “a machine called a gin gets rid of the seeds.” Does anyone know who invented the cotton gin? (p. 10)
 - a. Answer: Eli Whitney.
- List the steps to ginning cotton (p. 10-11).
 - a. Answer: First, cotton is grown on a shrub-like plant. After several weeks, the cotton boll opens, and they are picked by machine. Next, a gin removes the seeds, stems, leaves, dirt, and any other debris, before it is taken to a spinning mill. Finally, the fibers are combed and pulled into rope or yarn to be used for whatever you may need.

Post-Reading:

- The book is called *Where Did My Clothes Come From*, so, where do our clothes come from? Name a few of the different materials.
 - a. Answer: Cotton, wool, silk, synthetic/artificial fibers, fleece, and rubber.
- Can you name what each of the materials is best used for?
 - a. Answer: Wool and fleece are used to keep you warm, like a sweater or a jacket. Silk is the lightest fiber and is used to make clothing like dresses. Synthetic fibers wash easily and dry fast, like a sports uniform. Rubber is waterproof and used to make your rain boots.
- Evaluate the clothing you are wearing today. Can you speculate what materials may have been used to create your clothing?



2. Cotton Stations

Students will have the opportunity to travel through four different stations related to the development and uses of cotton. Each station should be given a timer of 10-15 minutes before students rotate to the next station.

Station 1: Cotton Life Cycle Observations

1. The cotton plant should be laid out in its various stages of development. As the students investigate each item, they will examine it with a magnifying glass. They will draw their observations on the provided worksheet.
 - a. Cotton Seed
 - b. Cotton Sprout
 - c. Cotton Plant
 - d. Cotton Flower
 - e. Cotton Boll

Station 2: Cotton Life Cycle Sort

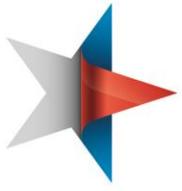
1. Using the cotton life cycle poster, students will sort the pictures in the correct order. The poster could be laminated and cut into sections, or photocopies could be made.
2. After mixing up the pieces, students will work to put the stages of development in order.

Station 3: Cotton Doodle

1. Utilizing the cotton doodle worksheet, students will draw a picture of what they are wearing today and describe what it is made of.

Station 4: Cotton Writing

1. Students will participate in a writing activity about cotton. A template is provided below. Students may respond to the prompt in complete sentences or with pictures, depending on readiness level.
 - a. Write about the different ways you use cotton every day. Which is your favorite and why?

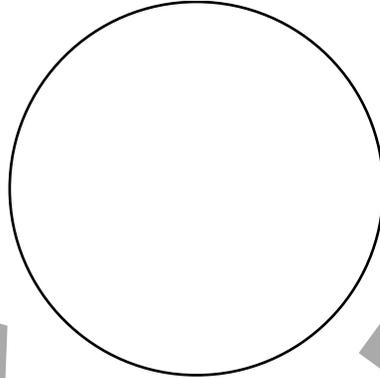


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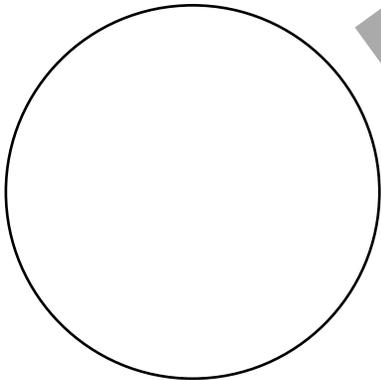
Cotton Life Cycle Observations

Draw a picture of each cotton sample. As you observe each sample with a magnifying glass, think about color, texture, shape, and size.

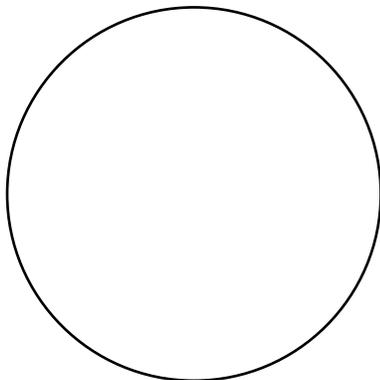
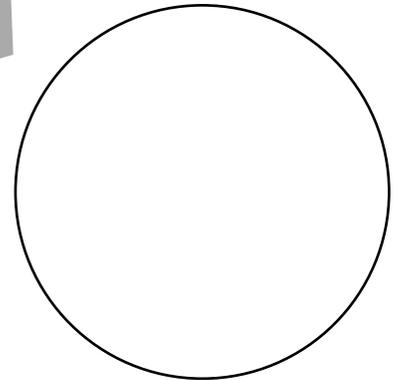
1. Cotton Seed



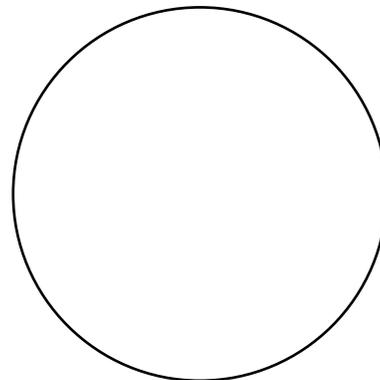
2. Cotton Boll



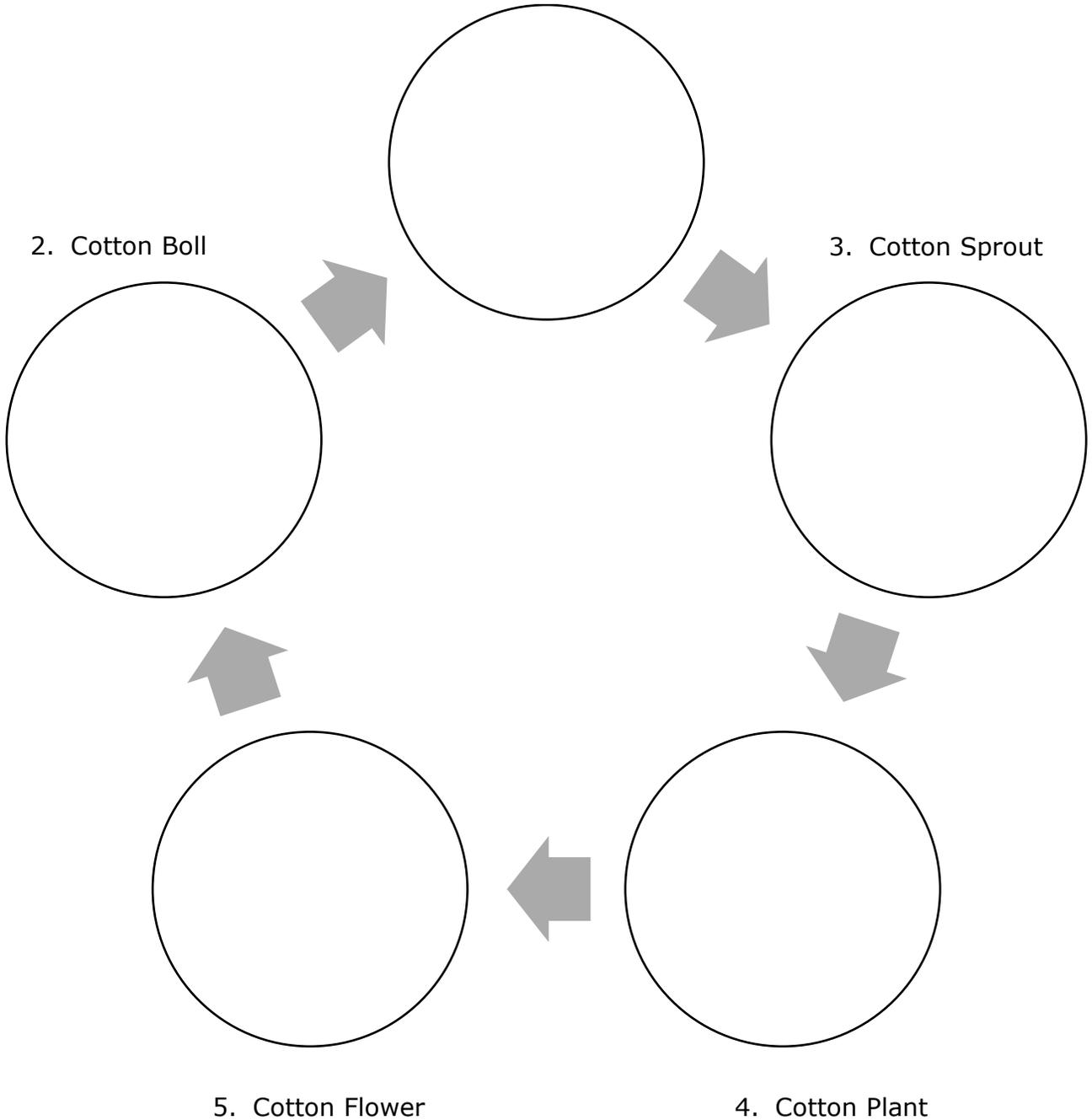
3. Cotton Sprout



5. Cotton Flower



4. Cotton Plant



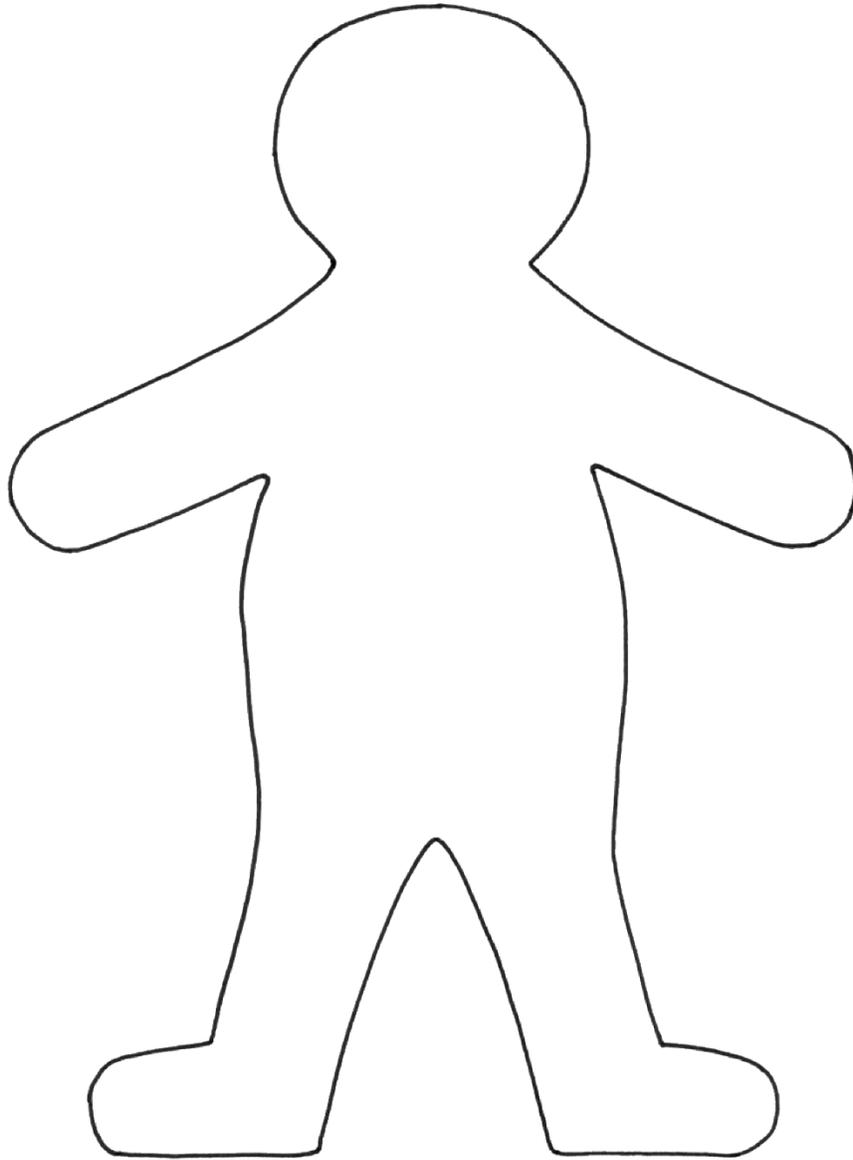


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Cotton Doodle

Using the outline provided below, draw a picture of what you are wearing today!



What are your clothes made from? Color in the correct boxes.

Cotton	Wool	Silk
Synthetic Fibers (Nylon/Polyester)	Fleece	Rubber

