Oklahoma sheep growers sheared 30,000 sheep in 2010. From the fleece of these sheep, manufactures produced about 160,000 pounds of wool. Wool can also be made from the hair or fur of goats, rabbits, llamas and even a semi-wild animal from the Andes Mountains called a vicuna. Wool can have a wide range of natural colors and textures, depending on which animal produced the fleece. To help consumers and spinners identify pure wool, the wool industry designed a trademark symbol. The wool symbol can only be used on products made from pure new wool. The wool symbol is used and recognized all over the world.

**Language Arts**

1. Hand out student worksheets.
   — Review and discuss the meaning of the vocabulary words found at the top of the worksheet.
   — Ask students for general definitions.
   — Read and discuss background.
   — Students will read the information on the worksheet silently or read it together as a class.
   — Students will underline the vocabulary words found in the reading.

2. Read and discuss background.
   — Based on discussion of the wool symbol, students will complete the question at the bottom of the student worksheet.
   — Students look for the wool symbol at home and report where they found them and how many.

3. Students will use their own words and as many vocabulary words as possible to tell what they have learned about sheep.

4. Students will use vocabulary words to create their own questions about sheep.

5. Bring a skein of yarn and unwind it as you ask students why an interesting, usually long, story is sometimes called a “yarn.”

**Visual Arts**

1. Acquire enough clean, combed wool to provide each student with a handful. Show students how they can spin their own wool yarn, using only their fingers.
   — Hold a clean piece of wool in your left hand.
   — Pull out a strip of the wool about one inch wide and thin enough so
you can see through the fibers.
—Roll the strip of wool between your thumb and index finger.
—Roll the strip only in one direction. Never roll it back and forth.
—Keep rolling the strip of wool until the fibers wind around each other
and form a firm thread of yarn.
—Wind the yarn around the first two fingers of your right hand.
—Keep drawing out strips of wool, twisting them tight.
—Wind the yarn on your fingers.
—In no time there will be a small ball of “homespun” yarn.

2. Make felt balls from wool.
—In one hand take a handful of fleece.
—Submerge the hand, with the fleece, in a pan of warm, soapy water.
—Make sure all the fleece gets wet.
—Using two hands, form the felt ball as though you were making a
snowball.
—You may have to add 1-2 drops of liquid soap.
—Pass the ball from hand to hand, squeezing very gently.
—The ball will continue to get smaller and firmer the longer you work it.
—Add more fleece if you want a larger ball.
—When it is firm, rinse out the soap and let dry.
—Make two or three balls, and you are ready for juggling.
—Invite a juggler to class to teach students how to juggle their felt balls.
—Smaller balls can be strung on strands of yarn to make bracelets.

Extra Reading
Fleece as White as Snow?

Read the story, and underline the 18 vocabulary words. Some words may appear more than once. Only underline that one that appears first.

Vocabulary Words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ewe</th>
<th>wool</th>
<th>ram</th>
<th>Suffolk</th>
<th>flock</th>
<th>bales</th>
<th>breeds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fleece</td>
<td>Hampshire</td>
<td>lambs</td>
<td>shearing</td>
<td>lanolin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dorset</td>
<td></td>
<td>by-product</td>
<td>wool</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mary's Pet

For thousands of years people have depended on sheep to provide them with milk, meat and clothing. Columbus was the first to bring sheep to the New World. Spanish settlers brought large flocks of sheep when they first made their homes in what is now our state of New Mexico.

A female sheep is called a ewe. The male is called a ram. Baby sheep are called lambs. Sheep grow fluffy wool all over their bodies. This coat is called a fleece. The fleece keeps the sheep warm and dry. Sheep need their hair cut about once a year. This is called "shearing." It takes about five minutes to shear a sheep. A good sheep shearer can shear about 150 sheep in a day.

After the fleece is sheared, it is weighed and bundled up in bales. Then it is taken to a factory to be sorted and washed. The Mother Goose rhyme tells us Mary’s lamb had "fleece as white as snow," but fleece is never that white. Oil in the fleece causes dirt to cling to the coat. For a lamb to look really clean, it would have to be bathed every day.

The oil in the fleece is called “lanolin.” Lanolin comes from small oil glands found under the sheep's skin. Lanolin glands are similar to the sweat glands you have in your body. Lanolin is used in makeup and lotions. It can also be used to waterproof shoes. We get many other by-products from sheep—leather, waxes for candles, medicines and stearin, which is used to make chewing gum and candy. The inside of a baseball is made by winding 150 yarns of wool into a tight ball.

There are 45 different breeds of sheep in the United States and about 914 different breeds of sheep in the world. Some of the more popular breeds of sheep are Suffolk, Hampshire and Dorset.

Complete this sentence: The wool symbol means__________________________________________

The wool symbol

Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom is a program of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Oklahoma State Department of Education.