



Threads of Learning

Teacher's Guide

How to Wear a Sheep



THE AMERICAN TEXTILE HISTORY MUSEUM

491 Dutton Street Lowell, Massachusetts

Education Department: (978) 441-0400 X250

www.athm.org





Program Description

Ages: PreK - Grade 2

Length: 2.5 hours (Including an age appropriate scavenger hunt at the Museum)

This program can be brought into the classroom!

This program guides young children through an exploration of how natural fiber is used to create fabric. They will discover how a sheep's wool can be spun into yarn, woven, and sewn into a garment. Following the story of *Charlie Needs a Cloak* by Tomie DePaola, children will be guided through the process of shearing sheep, cleaning and carding wool, spinning the fibers into thread, dyeing, weaving and clothing construction. This program includes plenty of sensory experiences from smelling raw wool to touching samples of wool at the various stages of processing. Sewing will be introduced, using plastic needles and yarn. You will leave with a new appreciation for your winter coat!



Objectives

The objective of the How to Wear a Sheep Program are to provide students with a basic understanding of how people use different tools and methods to create wool cloth. Students will be able to act out the different act out each step of the wool making process after reading the story *Charlie Needs a Cloak* by Tomie DePaola. This program emphasizes student immersion in a series of hands-on activities. This provides the students with a firsthand experience of performing the wool making steps.



Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework Connections

Pre- Kindergarten to Kindergarten

- PreK-K.2 Put events in their own and their families' lives in temporal order.
- PreK.5 Retell stories that illustrate honesty, courage, friendship, respect, responsibility and the wise or judicious exercise of authority, and explain how the characters in the stories show these qualities.
- PreK-K.8 Give examples of different kinds of jobs that people do, including the work they do at home.

Grade 1 Learning Standards

- 1.7 After Reading or listening to folktales, legends, and stories from America and from around the world, describe the main characters and their qualities.
- 1.9 Explain that Americans have a variety of different religions, community, and family celebrations and customs, and describe celebrations or custom held by members of the class and their families.

Grade 2 Learning Standards

- 2.8 Give examples of traditions or customs from other countries that can be found in America today.



Massachusetts English Language Arts and Literacy Curriculum Framework Connections

Pre-K and Kindergarten

Reading Standards for Literature

- MA.1-MA. 7, MA. 9

Reading Standards for Informational Text

- MA.1.-MA.7.

Grade 1

Reading Standards for Literature

- 1-7

- MA.8.A.

Reading Standards for Informational Text

- 1-2

Grade 2

Reading Standards for Literature

- 1-3

Reading Standards for Informational Text

- 1-2