



**Grade Level:** K - 5

**Art:** VA.2.CR2.K; VA.2.CR2.1-3

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Materials:**

Carded wool and wool spinning hooks - one per student

*\*Free kits with all materials available to Oregon educators; order at [oregonaitc.org](http://oregonaitc.org).*

**Vocabulary Terms:**

**Draft:** The pulling out of fibers to allow only a certain amount of the fiber to twist into thread

**Plying:** Winding two or more yarns together; must be done in the opposite direction to that in which they are spun

**AITC Library Resources:**

Check out these materials online at AITC's Free Loan Library!

**Books:**

*Weaving the Rainbow*  
*Sheep - A True Book*  
*Heart of a Shepherd*  
*Wool Fiber in the Making*

**DVD:**

*Sheep Crossing*

# Lesson to Grow

## Wool Spinning

**Description:**

Students will get hooked on wool spinning as they learn about wool and where it comes from. Using carded wool and spinning hooks, students will create friendship bracelets to wear home! Also, check out ***Weaving the Rainbow*, an excellent companion book for this activity available from the AITC Free Loan Library.**



**Directions:**

1. Give each student a piece of carded wool approximately ¼" wide and 14" long. Fold about ½" of wool over the end of the spinning hook and begin spinning.
2. Back your non-spinning hand out as the wool is spun; this is called drafting.
3. Draft out the wool so that the spun wool is taut but not bumpy. If you get twisted bumps in your spun yarn, let out more unspun wool. When you have twisted the entire length of the wool, don't let go—it will unspin. You are ready to ply your yarn!
4. Plying the yarn will keep it from unspinning and make it stronger. Plying is the twisting together of two single strands of spun wool. Have someone hold the center of the twisted wool while you hold the ends.
5. Bring the ends of the wool together in one hand so that there are two strands side-by-side. Have your helper let go, and let the wool twist together. It should spring into a twisted strand. The double strand is now called plied yarn.
6. Tie the plied yarn around your wrist to form a friendship bracelet.

**Extension Activity**

**Kool-Aid Dye Method**

1. In a glass bowl, combine 1 package of Kool-Aid, 1 cup of water, and 1 tablespoon of vinegar. Stir until the Kool-Aid completely dissolves.
2. Completely immerse an arm's length of wool into the Kool-Aid mixture.
3. Place the bowl of wool and Kool-Aid mixture into a microwave. Heat on high for two minutes.
4. Remove the bowl from the microwave and allow to cool. BE CAREFUL, IT'S HOT!
5. After the mixture has cooled, squeeze the liquid out of the wool and into the bowl. If the liquid is fairly clear, rinse the wool in cold water. If the liquid is not clear, heat the bowl of wool and Kool-Aid mixture for one additional minute before cooling and rinsing. This process will result in dyed wool that you can allow to dry and use in other projects.

(Lesson adapted from Utah Agriculture in the Classroom)