



FARM DAY ADVENTURES!

"The Cotton Edition"

Learning Objectives

1. Learn about cotton production in NC
2. Learn the lifecycle of a cotton plant and see how the plant changes

Supplies

- Paper
- Cotton Balls
- Clothes Pins
- Brown, Red, Green, White, & Yellow Paint

Fun Facts

- Cotton is the world's most used fiber! You can't beat that cotton feel!
- North Carolina farmers grow about 1 million bales of cotton every year.
- Oil produced from cotton seed is a primary component in many food items.
- Cottonseed mill and hulls are used as livestock, poultry, and fish feed as well as fertilizer!

Stages of Cotton Growth

A cotton plant's life cycle is amazing! How do cotton bolls develop?

1. By week 5, a flowering bud called a "square" develops.
2. Around the 8th to 10th week, a flower or bloom will emerge from the square.
3. The flower is pollinated, eventually falls off the plant, and an immature cotton boll appears. That cotton boll will continue to grow and develop until it is ready to be harvested!

Cotton Painting

- Create a painting to demonstrate the stages of cotton development!
- For an added bonus, only utilize cotton balls and cotton swabs for the entire painting.
 - Stage 1: Cotton Square
 - Stage 2: Flowering
 - Stage 3: Immature Boll
 - Stage 4: Mature Boll

Questions!

1. What are the growth stages of cotton?
2. How many pairs of jeans can be produced from 1 bale of cotton?
3. Who invented the cotton gin?

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