

# Hands on with Wool



## Materials:

- Carded wool
- Wool spinning hooks  
(Carded wool and spinning hooks can be purchased in a Wool Spinning Kit from [agclassroomstore.com](http://agclassroomstore.com).) Carded wool may also be found at woolen mills, sheep producers, craft stores, knitting shops.
- Vinegar
- Glass bowl
- Microwave
- Kool-Aid
- Weaving Instructions
- Cardboard
- String



## Activity 1: Dyeing Wool

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, rinse the wool in cold water and allow to dry.

## Activity 2: Spinning Wool

1. Take a piece of carded wool approximately 1/4" wide and 14" long. Fold about 1/2" 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, draft (or let out) more unspun wool. When you have twisted the entire length of the wool, don't let go—it will unspin. You are now 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.

Note: View a demonstration of the wool spinning process at <https://bit.ly/3aM6tsn>

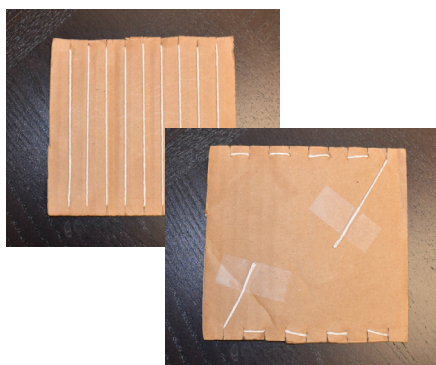
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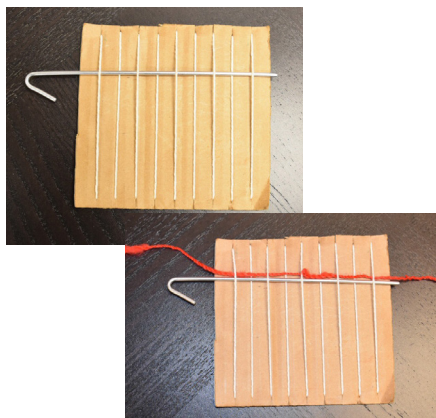
## Step 1



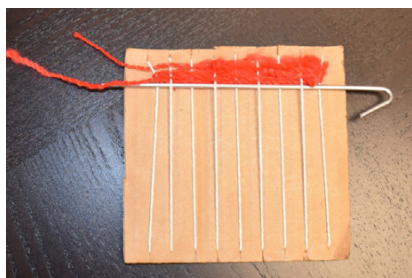
## Step 2



## Step 3



## Step 4



## Activity 3: Weaving Wool

1. Cut a rectangular piece of cardboard to your desired size. We used a 5" x 5" piece. This will become your loom. Use scissors to cut 1/4"-slits 1/2" apart along two opposite ends of the cardboard.
2. To create the warp on the loom, tape one end of the string to the back of the cardboard. Then string it through the first notch, around the front of the cardboard piece from top to bottom and into the opposite notch. Continue until all of the notches have been filled. Tape the second end of the string to the back of the cardboard.
3. Tie several strands of the spun and plied wool from step three together to make one long piece. Use the spinning hook from the wool spinning kit as your shed stick. Feed the shed stick over and under the warp with every second string being raised. Weave the yarn across the loom following the pattern of the shed stick. This yarn is known as the weft.
4. To weave the second row, feed the shed stick in the opposite over under pattern from the previous row and follow the pattern with the yarn. Use the shed stick to gently push each row together. Repeat this process until the weaving is finished.
5. When the weaving is finished, insert a twig or dowel above and below the woven piece.
6. Detach the string from the cardboard notches and tie the loose ends to the twigs. An extra piece of yarn can be tied to the top twig for hanging.

## Step 5



## Step 6

