Name: _____ Date: _____

From Cotton Boll to T-Shirt

Circle group

Your soft T-shirt began as a plant. Cotton grows best in warm places with lots of sun. A farmer plants the seeds in spring. The plants grow into bushes with pale flowers.

When a flower fades, a green pod called a boll grows in its place. Inside the boll, the seeds are wrapped in fluffy white fibers. The boll dries and splits open. The fluff puffs out like a tiny cloud. Machines pick the cotton when the bolls are open.

Next, the cotton goes to a factory called a gin. The gin pulls the fibers off the seeds. The fibers are pressed into big bundles and sent to a mill.

At the mill, machines comb the fibers until they lie in neat lines. Then the machines twist the fibers into long, strong thread. This is called spinning.

The thread is woven or knitted into cloth. Knitted cloth stretches more. Most T-shirts are made from it. Last, the cloth may be dyed, cut, and sewn into shirts.

It takes many steps and many workers to turn a fluffy boll into a shirt.

Questions

1. What is a boll?

_____

_____

2. What does a gin do?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the fibers at the mill?

_____

_____

4. What is spinning?

_____

_____

5. Why are most T-shirts made from knitted cloth?

_____

_____

6. Why does the writer say many workers are needed?

_____

_____

Words to know

boll: the seed pod of a cotton plant
fibers: thin threads that can be twisted together
woven: made by crossing threads over and under each other

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

From Cotton Boll to T-Shirt

Triangle group

The soft T-shirt in your drawer began as a plant. Cotton grows best in warm places with plenty of sunshine. A farmer plants the seeds in spring, and the plants grow into bushes covered in pale flowers.

When a flower fades, a green pod called a boll takes its place. Inside the boll, the seeds are wrapped in fluffy white fibers. As the boll ripens, it dries and splits open, and the fluff puffs out like a tiny cloud. Machines harvest the cotton once the bolls have opened.

Next, the cotton goes to a factory called a gin. The gin pulls the fibers away from the seeds, which are saved for planting or other uses. The fibers are pressed into large bundles and shipped to a mill.

At the mill, machines comb the fibers until they lie in neat, parallel lines. Then they twist the fibers together into long, strong thread. This twisting is called spinning.

The thread is woven or knitted into cloth. Knitted cloth stretches more, and that is what most T-shirts are made from. Finally, the cloth may be dyed, cut into pieces, and sewn into shirts.

Many steps and many workers were needed to turn a fluffy boll into something you wear.

Questions

1. What is a boll?

_____

_____

2. What does a gin do?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the fibers at the mill?

_____

_____

4. What is spinning?

_____

_____

5. Why are most T-shirts made from knitted cloth?

_____

_____

6. Why does the writer say many workers were needed?

_____

_____

Words to know

boll: the seed pod of a cotton plant
fibers: thin threads that can be twisted together
ripens: becomes fully grown and ready
parallel: lying side by side in the same direction
woven: made by crossing threads over and under each other

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

From Cotton Boll to T-Shirt

Square group

The soft T-shirt in your drawer originated as a plant. Cotton flourishes in warm regions with abundant sunshine, and a farmer sows the seeds in spring so that they can grow into bushes covered with pale flowers.

When a flower fades, a green pod called a boll develops in its place. Inside the boll, the seeds are wrapped in fluffy white fibers. As the boll ripens, it dries out and splits open, and the fluff billows outward like a miniature cloud. Once the bolls have opened, machines gather the cotton from the fields.

The harvest then travels to a factory known as a gin, where the fibers are pulled away from the seeds, which are saved for planting or other purposes. The fibers are compressed into enormous bundles and shipped to a mill.

At the mill, machines comb the fibers until they lie in neat, parallel lines, and then twist them together into long, durable thread. This twisting process is called spinning.

The thread is subsequently woven or knitted into cloth. Knitted cloth stretches more readily, which is why most T-shirts are made from it. Finally, the cloth may be dyed, cut into pieces, and sewn into shirts.

Countless steps and many different workers are required to transform a fluffy boll into something you can wear.

Questions

1. What is a boll?

_____

_____

2. What does a gin do?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the fibers at the mill?

_____

_____

4. What is spinning?

_____

_____

5. Why are most T-shirts made from knitted cloth?

_____

_____

6. Why does the writer say many different workers are required?

_____

_____

Words to know

boll: the seed pod of a cotton plant
fibers: thin threads that can be twisted together
ripens: becomes fully grown and ready
parallel: lying side by side in the same direction
woven: made by crossing threads over and under each other

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: From Cotton Boll to T-Shirt

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: From Cotton Boll to T-Shirt

Easier · 183 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.5

1. A green pod that grows after a cotton flower fades and holds seeds wrapped in fluffy fibers.
2. It pulls the cotton fibers off the seeds.
3. Machines comb them straight and twist them into thread.
4. Twisting fibers into long, strong thread.
5. Knitted cloth stretches more, so it is comfortable.
6. Each step, from farming to sewing, needs people and machines doing different jobs.

Triangle: From Cotton Boll to T-Shirt

This passage · 208 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.6

1. A green pod that grows after a cotton flower fades and holds the seeds wrapped in fluffy fibers.
2. It pulls the cotton fibers away from the seeds.
3. Machines comb them straight and twist them into thread.
4. Twisting fibers together into long, strong thread.
5. Knitted cloth stretches more than woven cloth, which makes it comfortable.
6. Each step, from farming to sewing, takes people and machines doing different jobs.

Square: From Cotton Boll to T-Shirt

Harder · 218 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.2

1. A green pod that develops after a cotton flower fades and holds seeds wrapped in fluffy fibers.
2. It pulls the cotton fibers away from the seeds.
3. Machines comb them into parallel lines and twist them into thread.
4. Twisting fibers together into long, durable thread.
5. Knitted cloth stretches more readily than woven cloth, which makes it comfortable.
6. Every step, from farming to sewing, involves people and machines doing different jobs.