

Cotton: From Field to Closet

Read to see how your cotton clothing is made.

¹ Are you wearing jeans or a t-shirt today? Chances are good that some part of your clothing is made out of cotton. How do those puffy little cotton balls out in the field get to your closet?

² First, those white cotton balls are, in fact, fine hairs growing out of many tiny seeds. After the cotton is picked, it is cleaned and dried. Then, the cotton is

separated from the seeds. A machine called a cotton gin does this. The ginned cotton is then pressed into 500-pound bales and sent to a mill.

³ At the mill, the cotton is spun into yarn or thread. Then, huge mechanical looms weave the thread into fabric. Finally, the cloth is cut and sewed to make a shirt or a pair of jeans, just like yours.



1. What are two kinds of clothing that might be made of cotton?

2. What does a cotton gin do?

3. Imagine that you are holding a cotton ball. It has many little seeds in it. Does it seem as if it would be easy to get those seeds out? Explain.

4. Before the cotton gin was invented, people had to remove cotton seeds by hand. Would you want that job? Write why or why not.

5. What is the author's purpose in writing this article?

_____ to tell a story _____ to give information

6. Where is cotton spun into yarn or thread?

7. Cotton balls are actually made of fine _____
growing out of tiny seeds.

8. Is this article made mostly of facts or opinions?
