



# ALL ABOUT SHEEP

Baa, graze, and explore these woolly friends of the farm!

A NONFICTION UNIT

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## MEET THE SHEEP!

Baa-baa! A fluffy animal munches grass—it's a **sheep**! Sheep are gentle and social animals. They like to stay together in groups. Sheep are also important because they grow wool, which people can use to make warm clothing.





## WHAT SHEEP ARE LIKE

Sheep are **mammals**, which means they have hair and drink milk from their mothers as babies. Most sheep are covered in thick, curly **wool**. They can be white, brown, black, or spotted.





## WHERE SHEEP LIVE

Sheep live on farms and open grassy areas called **pastures**. They like wide spaces where they can walk and graze together. At night or during bad weather, sheep may rest in a shed or **barn**. Farmers make sure sheep have grass, water, and shelter.

## FROM LAMB TO ADULT

A sheep's life begins as a **lamb**. Lambs drink milk from their mothers to grow strong. Soon, they begin to nibble grass. As they grow bigger, lambs become adult sheep. Female sheep are called **ewes**, and male sheep are called **rams**.



## WHAT SHEEP EAT

Sheep are **herbivores**, which means they eat plants. Sheep love to graze on grass, clover, and other leafy plants. They chew their food carefully. Sheep also need clean water every day to stay healthy.



## INSIDE A SHEEP FAMILY

Sheep live together in groups called **flocks**. Staying together helps sheep feel safe and calm. Mothers stay close to their lambs, and lambs learn by watching older sheep. Sheep follow one another when they move across the pasture.





## WHY SHEEP HAVE WOOL

Sheep grow **wool** all the time. Wool keeps sheep warm and dry. When the weather gets warm, farmers shear sheep to remove extra wool. The wool is cleaned and used to make clothes, blankets, and yarn. **Shearing** helps sheep stay cool and comfortable.





## KEEPING SAFE

Sheep stay safe by staying close to their **flock**. A flock helps sheep watch for danger. On farms, fences help protect sheep from predators. Farmers may also use sheepdogs to help guide and protect the sheep.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Merino sheep are raised on farms in many countries, especially Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. They are famous for their very soft, fine wool, which people use to make warm, cozy clothing.

# QUESTION TIME!

1. (True or False) Sheep are mammals.
2. (True or False) Sheep eat meat.
3. (True or False) Baby sheep are called lambs.
4. (Fact or Opinion) Sheep have wool.
5. (Fact or Opinion) Sheep are the calmest farm animals.
6. Where do sheep live?
7. What do sheep eat?
8. What is a group of sheep called?
9. Why do farmers shear sheep?
10. How do sheep stay safe?



# ANSWERS

1. True. Sheep are mammals.
2. False. Sheep eat plants, not meat.
3. True. Baby sheep are called lambs.
4. Fact. Sheep really do have wool.
5. Opinion. "Calmer farm animals" is a personal idea.
6. They live on farms and in pastures.
7. Sheep love to graze on grass, clover, and other leafy plants.
8. A group of sheep is called a flock.
9. Shearing removes extra wool to help sheep stay cool.
10. Sheep stay safe by staying close to their flock.



# GLOSSARY

**Barn** – a farm building where animals can rest and stay safe

**Ewe** – an adult female sheep

**Flock** – a group of sheep living together

**Herbivore** – an animal that eats plants

**Lamb** – a baby sheep

**Mammal** – an animal with fur or hair that drinks milk as a baby

**Pastures** – grassy fields where farm animals eat and roam

**Ram** – an adult male sheep

**Sheep** – a farm animal that eats plants and grows wool

**Wool** – thick, soft hair that grows on sheep and can be used to make clothing



## FUN WITH SHEEP

*Q: What do you get when you cross angry sheep with a grumpy cow?*

*A: A baaaaad mooood*