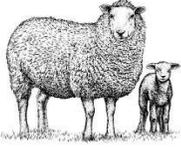




Links to Agriculture All About Sheep



Names for Sheep

Just like other animals, sheep have special names. Female sheep are called **ewes** (pronounced *yous*). Male sheep are called **rams**. Baby sheep are called **lambs**. Sheep travel in groups called **flocks**.

Types of Sheep

There are many different breeds of sheep. Some sheep are raised for their wool, some are raised for their meat, and some are raised for both their wool and meat. Farmers also raise sheep for their milk, which they turn into cheese like feta, ricotta, or Roquefort. Have you ever tried any of those cheeses?

Fight or Flight

All animals have a fight or flight response, including humans. This means that when the animals are faced with a dangerous situation, they will either fight their predator or run away from it. Sheep are timid and nervous animals. They are likely to run away from danger. They like to flock together for protection.

Eating

Most sheep eat grass, clover, and other pasture plants. Sheep will graze (or eat) about 7 hours each day! They eat mostly in the hours around dawn and in the late afternoon near sunset when it is coolest outside.

Shearing

Sheep are sheared (or given a haircut) once a year in the spring. The entire coat of wool is cut from the sheep in one piece called a **fleece**. Shearing does not hurt the sheep. In fact, shearing helps sheep feel more comfortable because they cannot shed on their own.



The fleece is cleaned and processed into yarn to be used for clothing, blankets and even the inside of baseballs. **Lanolin**, the oil from the wool, is used in adhesive tape, printing inks and motor oils. Many cosmetics and beauty products such as lipstick, lotions and shampoos have lanolin in them.

How Well Did You Read?

Circle ALL of the correct answers. There can be more than one!

1. What do you call a female sheep?

ram

flock

ewe

lamb

2. What do you call a group of sheep?

ram

flock

ewe

lamb

3. What are some reasons farmers might raise sheep?

4. What are some products we get from sheep?

meat

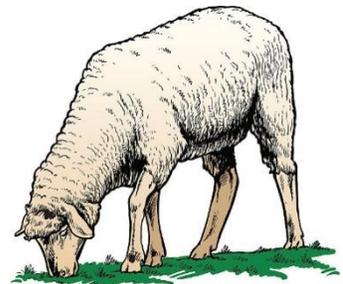
clothes

lipstick

yarn

5. What does the word **graze** mean? (Choose one)

- to shear a sheep
- to eat grasses
- to flock together
- to run



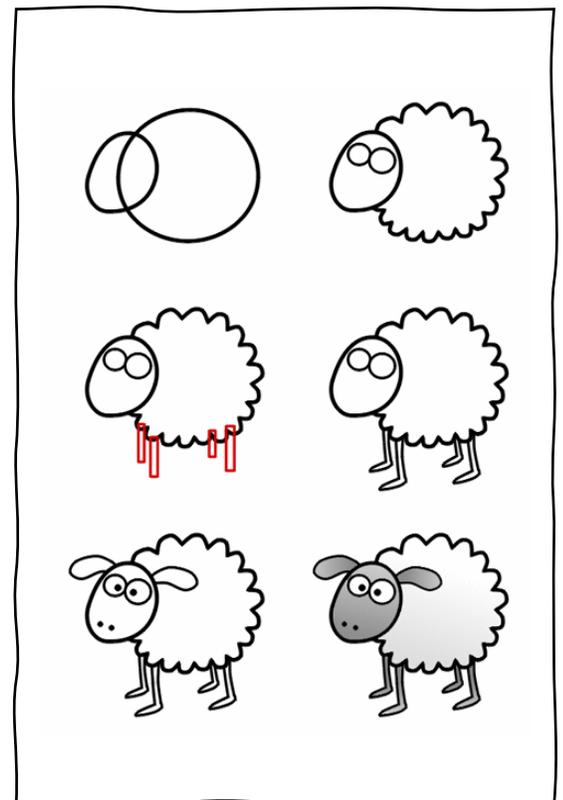
Marshmallow Sheep Cupcakes

Ingredients

- large white marshmallows
- mini white marshmallows
- tube of black writing icing
- 1 container of frosting
- cupcakes

Directions

1. Spread a layer of frosting over the top of the cupcake.
2. Leave a large glob of icing in the center.
3. Place a large marshmallow in the center of the cupcake for the sheep's face.
4. Have an adult cut another large marshmallow in half horizontally and then in half again. Stick 2 of these pieces on either side of the sheep's face to form the ears.
5. Have an adult cut several mini marshmallows in half.
6. Arrange some halved mini marshmallows on the top of the sheep's head.
7. Place the rest of the cut mini marshmallows around the top of the cupcake.
8. Draw eyes and noses on the sheep's face using the black writing icing.



How to Draw a Cartoon Sheep

Wool Trivia

- Wool is fire resistant.
- Wool can absorb up to 30% of its weight in moisture.
- A perfectly preserved wool sock was found buried in the silt along the banks of a river in England. The sock is estimated to be 1,000 years old.
- President Woodrow Wilson grazed sheep on the White House lawn. The wool obtained from the sheep was sold to raise money for the Red Cross during World War I.



Joke Time

1. Where did the sheep go for a haircut?
2. Why are sheep baaad drivers?



Did You Know ...?

- Vermont uses sheep to keep down vegetation on ski slopes during the summer.
- 73% of the wool produced is used in clothing and accessories, 15% in home furnishings and 7% in industrial felts used for noise reduction.
- One pound of wool can be spun into 900-1,200 yards of medium weight yarn.
- The top 5 sheep producing states are Texas, California, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah (2020).



Joke Answer:

1. The baa shop
2. They always make illegal ewe turns.



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