What do you know about sheep?

- What sounds do sheep make?
- What do sheep eat?
- Why do farmers raise sheep?
- What does a sheep look like?
- Have you ever seen a real sheep? If so, where?

Everywhere a Baa, Baa Old MacDonald is going to tell you all about sheep. Listen to find out more about the main topic, or main idea, of today's lesson: 'sheep.

Old MacDonald here. You may remember that I have some sheep on my farm. The sheep say, "baa, baa" here and "baa, baa" there.

Up the road, on my neighbor's farm, you can hear, 'baa, baa" everywhere, because she has a large flock of sheep. A flock is a large group. Birds aren't the only animals that travel in flocks--sheep do, as well.



By the way, you might have noticed something a little unusual about the word sheep. You can have one cow or a herd of cows. You can have one pig or a herd of pigs. You can have one chicken or a flock of chickens. However, you can have one sheep or a flock of sheep.



Did you notice? You do not need to add the /s/ sound to the end of the word sheep if you have more than one sheep. In other words, you would not say that my neighbor has a flock of sheeps. We say she has a flock of sheep.



A female sheep is called a ewe--not to be confused with the word you, as in the sentence "You are in kindergarten." The word you--as in you, not me-and the word ewe, a female sheep, sound the same but are spelled differently, and they mean totally different things.

2

8



A male sheep is called a ram. As with most other farm animals, farmers do not keep many males in the flock. My neighbor has one or two rams, and the rest of the flock is female.



Baby sheep are called lambs. The ewe often has twin lambs. If the ewe had twin lambs, how many lambs would she have? When lambs are young, they feed on their mother's



Sometimes, the ewe may not have enough milk for two lambs, so the farmer may need to feed one of the lambs milk from a bottle.



By now you've learned that farmers raise animals for milk, eggs, and meat. Sheep are mammals, like cows' and pigs, because they give birth to live young and they make milk to feed their babies.



Some farmers raise sheep for milk, which they use to make cheese, and some people raise sheep for meat. Most farmers, however, raise sheep because of the wool that grows on their bodies



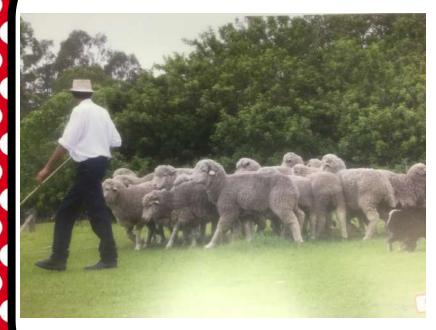
Wool is a very important, material to people. Sheep's wool can be turned into yarn and woven into warm clothing or blankets. Can you find the person who is wearing a wool sweater in this picture?



Sheep lead pretty simple lives. They spend most of their time out in the field grazing. The farmer lets them out to graze every morning and leads them back to the safety of the pen at night.



A pen is a small fenced area for animals. A pen can also be a tool for writing.



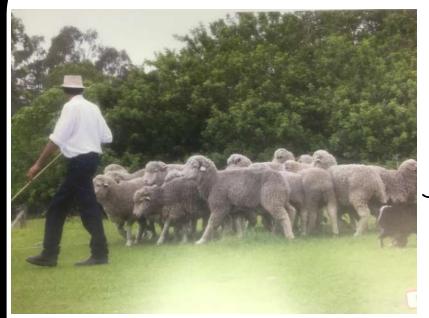
Sheep generally stay with the flock, where there is safety in numbers. Sheep do not have to worry about small animals like raccoons or skunks sneaking up and eating them.



Predators are other animals that eat sheep.

Every now and then, a sheep does stray from the flock, usually in search of some tastier grass. Stray means to wander away.

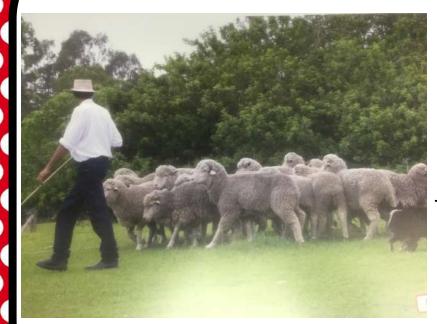
X



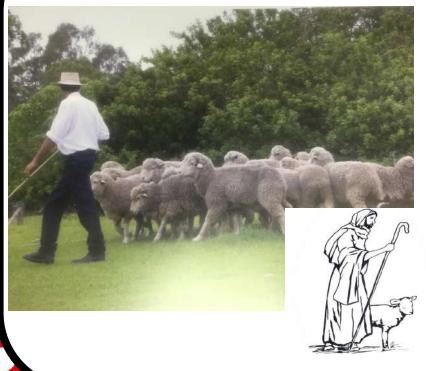
Sheep are valuable farm animals--they are worth a lot of money--so the farmer cannot afford to let them wander off. Why are sheep valuable?



My neighbor hires a shepherd to help watch over her flock. The shepherd's job is to lead the sheep out to pasture and watch over them to make sure they do not wander off or get eaten by



The shepherd's job does bring certain responsibilities. Responsibilities are tasks or jobs that a person is in charge of. The shepherd must stay alert and beware of predators. Remember a predator would eat sheep.



If a sheep starts to wander, the shepherd can catch the sheep with his crook--a long wooden stick with a hook on the end-to lead it back to the flock.

Shepherds sometimes need help caring for large flocks. Dogs' can be trained to help care for the sheep. Dogs who work with sheep are called sheepdogs. Sheepdogs run after the sheep that try to wander away and chase them back to the flock. Sheepdogs are also important for chasing away predators.



The sheep eats grass and grows thick coats of fuzzy wool all year round. After the sheep have had time to grow long, shaggy coats of wool, the farmer gets out her shearing clippers. Shearing clippers are like the electric razors a barber uses to cut hair.



The farmer uses the shearing clippers to cut the wool off all the sheep in her flock. She does this in the springtime, when warm weather is coming and the sheep no longer need a thick coat of wool. By the time the winter comes around again, the sheep will have grown new wool to keep them warm during the cold weather.





The farmer knows how to cut off the wool in a way that does not hurt the animals. The wool that she cuts off is called the fleece. When the farmer shears a sheep, the main part of the fleece can come off in one big piece.

Sometimes, while she's shearing the sheep, the farmer sings an old nursery rhyme you might remember: Baa, baa, black sheep, Have you any wool? Yes, sir, yes, sir, Three bags full. One for the master, And one for the dame, And one for the little boy who lives down the lane.

Comprehension Questions: What is the main topic, or main idea, of today's lesson?

Comprehension Questions:

Literal

8

What do you see in this picture? What sound do they make?



Comprehension Questions: How do sheep get the food they need?



Comprehension Questions: How do lambs get the food they need?



Comprehension Questions:

Literal What is a flock of sheep?



Comprehension Questions: Why do farmers raise sheep?



Comprehension Questions:

Literal What is a sheep's fleece?



Comprehension Questions:

Literal What are the responsibilities of a shepherd?

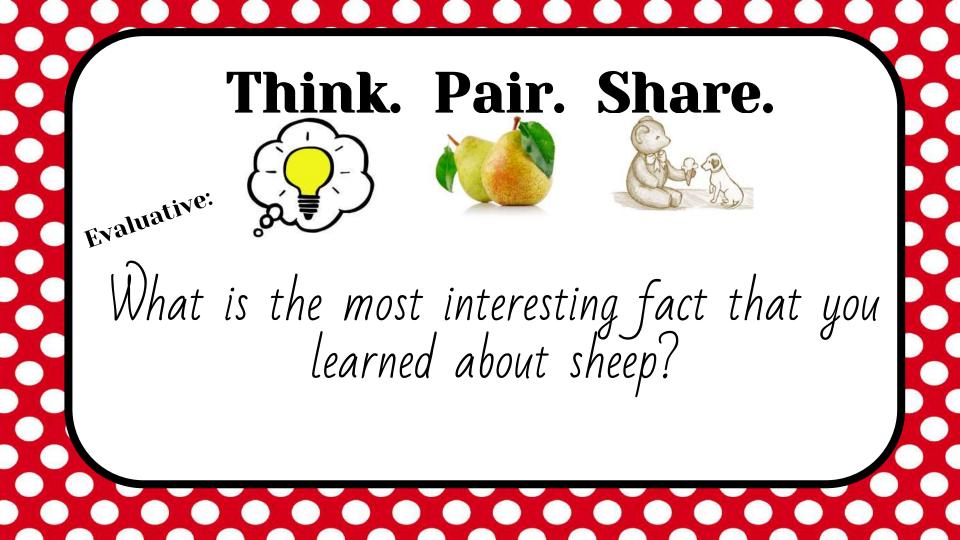
0

X





I'm going to ask you a question. I will give you a minute to think about the question, and then I will ask you to turn to your neighbor and discuss the question. Finally I will call on several of you to share what you discussed with your partner.



Word Work Explicit Vocabulary Instruction

In the read aloud you heard, "For the most part, it is not a very difficult job, but the job of shepherd does bring **responsibilities**."

> Say the word **responsibilities** with me. Whisper responsibilities to the ceiling. Whisper responsibilities to the floor. Clap out the word.

Responsibilities are things that you are in charge of doing.

One of my responsibilities as your teacher is to help you become a better reader.

Do you have any responsibilities at school? How about at home? Try to use the word responsibilities when you tell about them.

"One of my responsibilities is..."

What's the word we've been talking about?

I will explain a situation. If the person has responsibilities, thumbs up. If the person doesn't have responsibilities, thumbs down.

Thumbs Up = Responsibilities Thumbs Down = No Responsibilities

Maria packs her own lunch each day and buys milk at school.



Thumbs Up = Responsibilities Thumbs Down = No Responsibilities

Tom's mom always packs his lunch and decides what he will wear to school.



Thumbs Up = Responsibilities Thumbs Down = No Responsibilities

Lucy feeds her dog and takes him for a walk.



Thumbs Up = Responsibilities Thumbs Down = No Responsibilities

Carlos has his little brother put away the toys in the playroom.



Thumbs Up = Responsibilities Thumbs Down = No Responsibilities

Anna helps her classmates put away the crayon and drawing paper.

