

# Canada Agriculture and Food Museum

## What am I? (Answers)

From sheep to sweater for teachers -Language

When we observe various fibres under a microscope, we can see that they look different. Read the clues and look carefully at the pictures below to solve these riddles.

1. I grow on a sheep's skin, which has to be sheared every year.  
My surface scales repel water but my core absorbs water.  
The scales make me scratchy to touch.  
I am **wool**.
2. I'm a type of plastic, often made from recycled bottles.  
Once melted, the plastic comes out of tiny holes in a machine, like long, thin strands of spaghetti.  
I retain water on my surface, but I cannot absorb water.  
I am **polyester**.
3. I grow in long, thin wavy tubes on the surface of a plant's seeds.  
When the plant dies, these tubes become empty, flat cavities. That's where I can store a lot of water.  
I am **cotton**.



4. I'm manufactured from chemicals and the crushed parts of a plant.  
Many tiny fibres are combined in the process.  
I can absorb lots of water.  
I am **bamboo**.

**This lesson plan was produced by the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum.**

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