

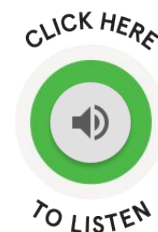


Wool in Schools Teaching and Learning Activities



THE CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL

Why is wool so wonderful?



Wool is an amazing material that has been used for thousands of years to make all kinds of useful and beautiful things. One of the reasons wool is so great to make products from is that it is a natural fibre. That means it comes from a living thing - sheep! - and not from a factory or chemical process. Because wool is natural, it is soft, warm, and breathable, which means it's comfortable to wear and use.

Another reason wool is so great to make products from is that it is incredibly versatile.

Wool can be spun into yarn, which can be knitted or crocheted into all sorts of things like hats, scarves, and blankets. It can also be woven into fabric to make clothes, bags, and even rugs!

Wool is also very durable, which means products made from wool can last a long time and be passed down from generation to generation. So whether you're looking for a cosy sweater or a sturdy rug, wool is an excellent choice for making all kinds of products!



Why is wool so wonderful?

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box to make the sentences make sense.

natural useful yarn cosy versatile
comfortable fabric durable chemical
excellent breathable blankets material

Wool is an amazing _____ that has been used for thousands of years to make all kinds of _____ and beautiful things. One of the reasons wool is so great to make products from is that it is a _____ fibre. That means it comes from a living thing – sheep! – and not from a factory or _____ process. Because wool is natural, it is soft, warm, and _____, which means it's _____ to wear and use.

Another reason wool is so great to make products from is that it is incredibly _____. Wool can be spun into _____, which can be knitted or crocheted into all sorts of things like hats, scarves, and _____. It can also be woven into _____ to make clothes, bags, and even rugs!

Wool is also very _____, which means products made from wool can last along time and be passed down from generation to generation. So whether you're looking for a _____ sweater or a sturdy rug, wool is an _____ choice for making all kinds of products!



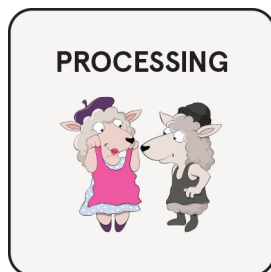
Order the process

Drag and drop the tiles at the bottom of the page to show the process of how wool is made.

Put them in order.

HINT: Have a look at the fact file if you're stuck!

1	2	3	4
5	6 → 10	11	12



Matchy matchy

Match the wool processing technique with the description.



WEAVING

Loose fibres of wool are twisted together to make a longer and stronger fibre called yarn.



SPINNING

A special machine weaves the yarn together to make them into a fabric.



DYEING

The carded wool is rubbed together with water and soap, which matts it into a special cloth.



KNITTING

Wool can be dyed any colour!



FELTING

Creating a fabric by interlacing yarn loops.



Discussion cards

Use these prompts as a starting point for debate, writing, opinion, research or discussion.

Why does NZ wool have such a good reputation for producing quality wool?

The wool industry has been an important part of New Zealand's economy for many years. What are some of the challenges it faces today?

How has the demand for wool changed in recent years, and what factors have contributed to these changes?

What are some innovations or advancements in wool technology that are being developed in New Zealand?

How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the wool industry in New Zealand?

What are some potential environmental benefits of using wool?

How can the wool industry support the development of local communities and promote economic growth in rural areas?

What are some opportunities for collaboration and partnership between the wool industry and other industries, such as fashion, agriculture, or technology?



Why is wool so wonderful?

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box to make the sentences make sense.

environment strong fibre
soft plastic products sheep

Wool comes from _____, and it's _____ and cosy like a blanket or sweater. You can use it to make all kinds of things, like clothes and toys.

It is a natural _____ and can keep you cool when it's hot and warm when it's cold. That's why it is great for making clothing with, like jumpers and hats.

Wool is good for the _____. It breaks down quickly and is safe if it gets into the oceans unlike _____.

It's also very _____, which means things made from wool can last a long time.

So, wool is a great choice for making all sorts of _____!



How is wool made?



On farms all around Aotearoa, New Zealand there are millions of sheep grown for their wool. They are well looked after by farmers to grow big and healthy.

Wool is a special kind of fibre that comes from the fluffy coats of sheep. These sheep are carefully raised on farms. Once the sheep's wool has grown long enough, it's time for the farmers to carefully remove it. This is called shearing, and it's like giving the sheep a big haircut and it doesn't hurt the sheep! The farmers use special tools to

carefully cut the wool off the sheep, making sure not to hurt them.

After the wool has been shorn, it's cleaned and processed to make it soft and ready to use. This involves washing it, carding it (removing the knots), combing and spinning it into yarn. From there, the wool can be made into all kinds of cosy things like blankets, sweaters, and hats. So, the next time you snuggle up in a soft wool blanket, you can remember that it all started with a fluffy sheep on a farm!



How is wool made?



Fill in the gaps with the words from the box to make the sentences make sense.

carefully

raised

Aotearoa

millions

hats

shears

fibre

sheep

processed

haircut

farmers

carding

yarn

On farms all around _____, New Zealand there are _____ of sheep grown for their wool. They are well looked after by _____ to grow big and healthy.

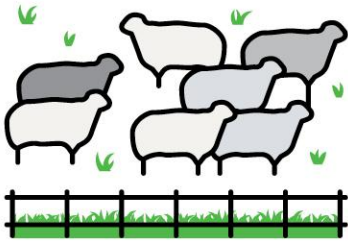
Wool is a special kind of _____ that comes from the fluffy coats of sheep. These sheep are carefully _____ and looked after on farms. Once the sheep's wool has grown long enough, it's time for the farmers to _____ remove it. This is called _____, and it's like giving the sheep a big _____ and it doesn't hurt the sheep!

The farmers use special tools to cut the wool off the sheep, called _____ or clippers. After the wool has been cut off, it's cleaned and _____ to make it soft and ready to use. This involves washing it, _____ (removing the knots), combing and spinning it into _____.

From there, the wool can be made into all kinds of cosy things like blankets, sweaters, and _____. So, the next time you snuggle up in a soft wool blanket, you can remember that it all started with a fluffy _____ on a farm!



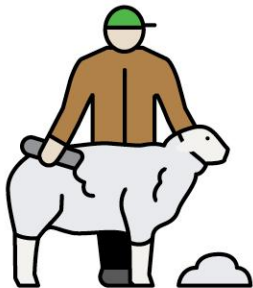
How is wool made?



In New Zealand, there are many farms with lots of sheep.



These sheep have special fur called wool that can be made into warm and cosy things.



The farmers take good care of the sheep and when their wool gets too long, they give them a haircut called shearing.

It doesn't hurt the sheep and they feel much better afterwards.



Then the wool is cleaned and made into soft yarn that can be used to make blankets, sweaters, and hats.

So, next time you use something made of wool, remember it came from a happy and fluffy sheep on a farm!



Finger knitting



Watch the video
tutorial here:

<https://onelittleproject.com/finger-knitting/>

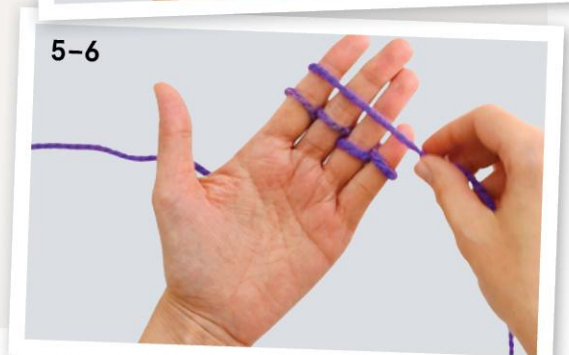
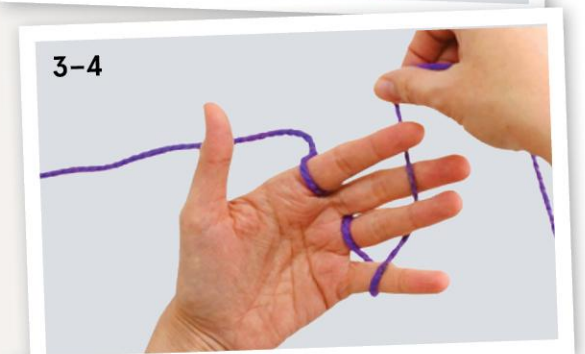
Let's make a bracelet!

MATERIALS

Yarn & your hands!

METHOD

- 1 Start by tying a slip knot near the end of the yarn. Leave yourself about 15cm of yarn after the knot.
- 2 Place the loop over your pointer finger and tighten it a little. Take the 15cm length of yarn and move it out of the way. You'll need it so you can tie your bracelet at the end.
- 3 Using yarn from the ball from the yarn (not the 15cm end), weave the yarn UNDER your middle finger, then OVER your ring finger and UNDER your pinky.
- 4 Then wrap the yarn around and OVER your pinky, UNDER your ring finger, OVER your middle finger and UNDER your pointer finger.
- 5 You'll end up with a loop on each of your four fingers. Push the loops to the same spot on your fingers so they line up in a straight line, like in the photo.
- 6 Then wrap the yarn (which will be coming from UNDER your pointer finger) over and across all of your fingers, above the line of loops that you just finished weaving.



Continued on next card...

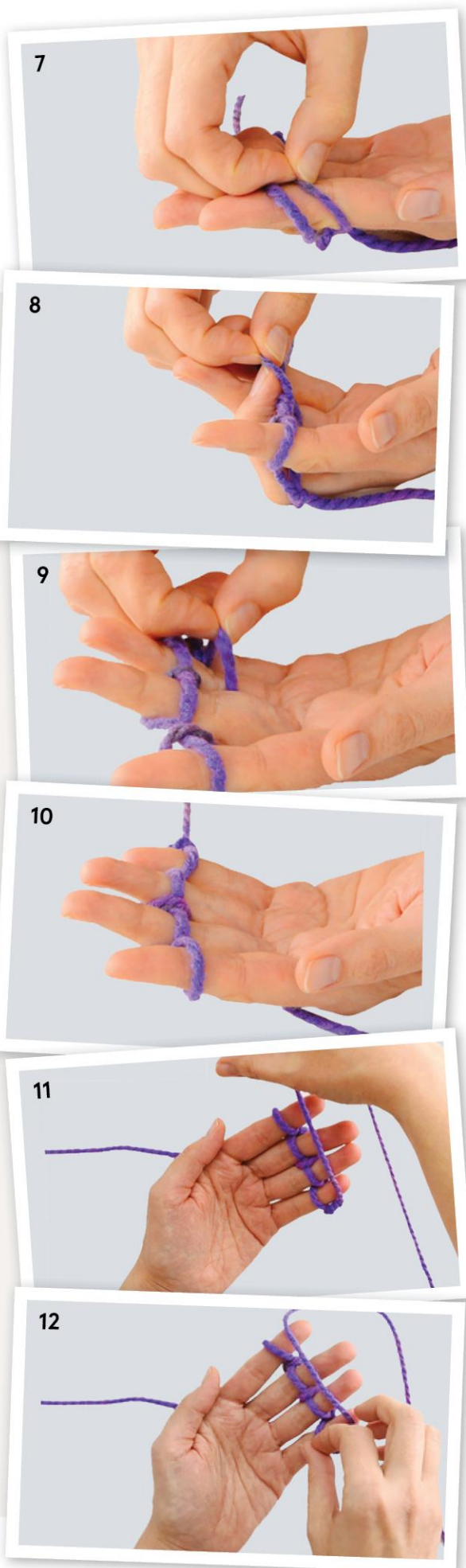


Finger knitting *continued*

METHOD

- 7 Starting with your pointer finger, take the bottom loop, lift it up and over the top yarn that you laid over your fingers, and then over your finger and to the back.
You'll be left with one loop on your pointer finger.
- 8 Then move on to your middle finger, and do it again – take the bottom loop, lift it up and over the yarn that you laid over your fingers, and then over your finger and to the back.
- 9 Repeat for your ring finger and your pinky.
- 10 You should be left with one loop on each finger.
- 11 Now take the yarn and lay it over your fingers above the loops, just as you did before.
- 12 Starting with the bottom loop on your pinky, lift it up and over the yarn that you laid over your fingers, and then over your pinky and to the back.
Keep lifting the bottom loop on each finger up and over in this way. Every time you finish a row you should be left with one loop on each finger. Then you'll take the yarn and lay it over your fingers above the loops, and you'll lift the loop on each finger up and over it.

Continued on next card...



Finger knitting *continued*

METHOD

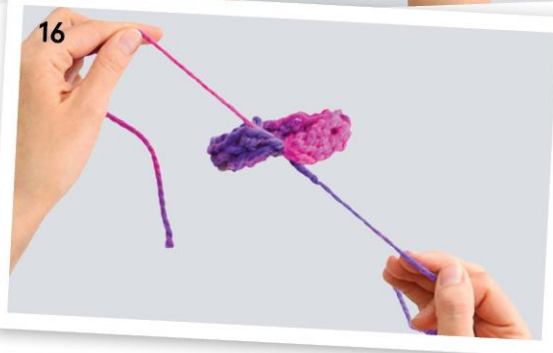
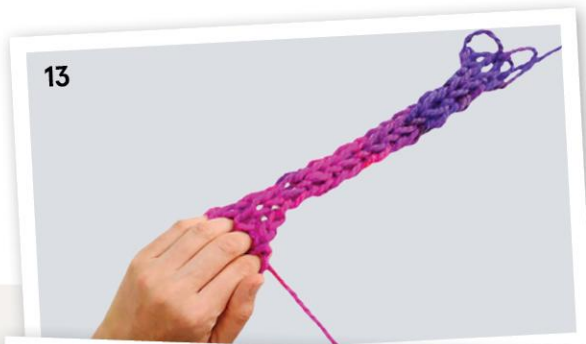
13 Repeat, repeat, repeat until you're happy with the length. See the next card to learn how to tie it off when you are done.

How to tie off when you're done:

14 When you're done, cut the yarn, leaving yourself about an 20cm length at the end.

15 Take the end, and pull it through the loop on the last finger you knitted. In the picture, it finishes on the pinky, so that's where the end is pulled through first. Once the end has been pulled through the loop, you can take that loop off your finger.

16 Take the two loose ends of yarn and tie them together. You can tie them in a knot and trim the ends, or you can tie it in a bow.



Images from and lesson inspired by:
<https://onelittleproject.com/finger-knitting/>



Weaving

Weaving can be done on the loom supplied in the container, or by creating your own loom out of cardboard!



MATERIALS

The Loom/
Weaving Frame

Wool, cotton,
yarn, fabric
(You can use
different kinds of
yarns or materials!)



TIPS:

LOOM:

A frame used for weaving.

WARP:

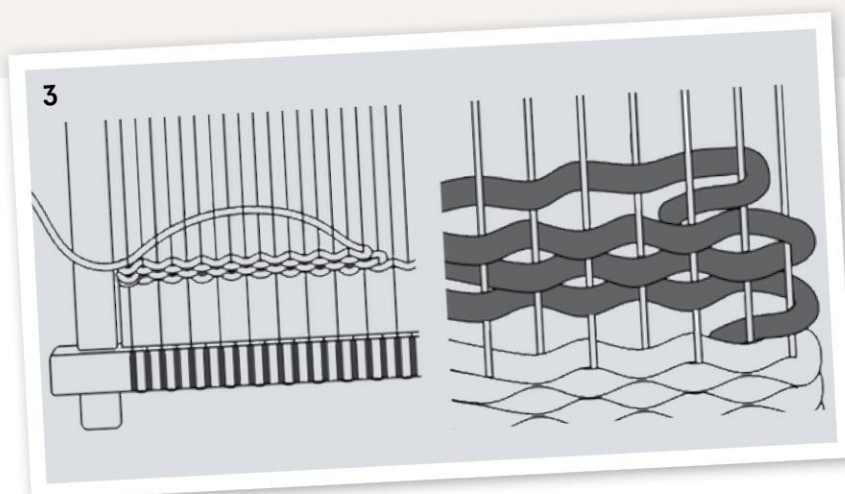
The strong tight threads
that are stretched onto
a loom for weaving.

WEFT:

The fibres that are woven
into the warp to create
a fabric.

METHOD

- 1 Lie the loom on a table or surface in front of you.
- 2 Take your yarn (weft) and tie the end to the first warp of the loom.
- 3 Weave it in and out of the warps.
- 4 Leave the weft loose.



Looms & weaving frames



Miss out on the
weaving in the
container?
You can make
your own
weaving frame!

Wet felting

This is a fun and easy activity to do at any age.

Let's make a felted wool bead! Did you see the felted items in the drawers in the container?

MATERIALS

Bowl of warm water

Liquid soap or bar of soap

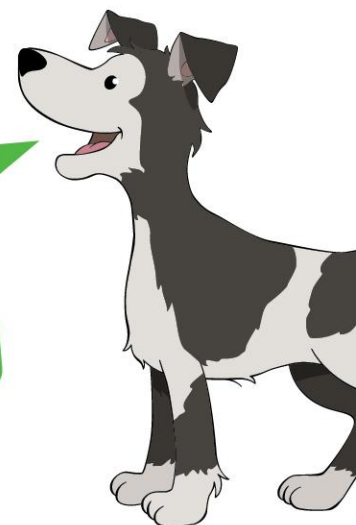
Unspun wool

METHOD

- 1 Mix 4 tablespoons of liquid soap to 6 cups of warm water.
- 2 Start with a length of wool of around 20cm (or longer for a larger ball)
- 3 Form the ball by folding the wool around itself firmly. More wool can be added as needed to form the ball. Don't worry if it's not perfectly round, the felting process will help with this.
- 4 Wet the ball gently in the warm water and lather up hands with soap, or if using liquid soap dunk wool in soapy water.
- 5 Gently roll wool ball between your two hands until it starts to felt. Every minute or so add more water and soap to maintain a warm soapy lather.
- 6 As it felts you can start rolling it more vigorously.
- 7 Stop felting once the ball is nice and firm. This should only take around 5 minutes of rolling.
- 8 Rinse the ball in cold water to remove soap and leave to dry.



Friction and heat cause the wool fibres to lock together, forming a strong bond. This is called **felting**.



THE CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL

Create your own loom

Create your own loom to weave!



MATERIALS

Cardboard (the stronger the better)

Ruler + pencil

String

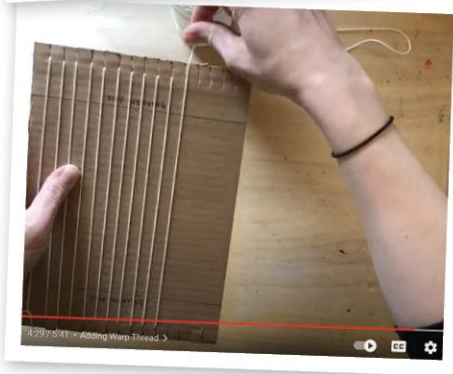
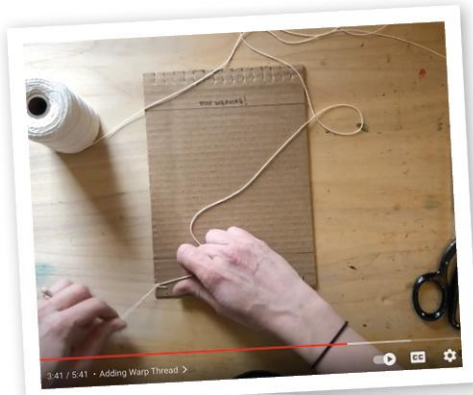
Scissors

Yarn (for weaving)

METHOD

- 1 Make sure your cardboard is a rectangle shape. Any size you like.
- 2 Use a ruler and mark a line with your pencil every 1 cm on the top and bottom of the piece of cardboard. Your top and bottom marks should align.
- 3 With the scissors, cut each of your marks about 1cm deep.
- 4 Using some spare cardboard, cut two strips of cardboard as long as your loom and about a 2 cm wide. Glue these two pieces to your loom at the top and bottom just beside your cut marks (see the image above!).
- 5 Now we need to warp the loom: Take your string and tie a knot and put the knot at the back of the first cut mark on the top. You could tape it to secure it.
- 6 Once the knot is secure, warp across the loom. Bring the warp (string) around the tab in the back of the loom and then across the front - this can be tricky so watch the video below if you can!
- 7 Keep warping until the end and tie your warp thread in a single knot at the back of the loom, making sure to have the knot end on the bottom of the loom also.

Then comes the super fun part - start weaving with your yarn!



Watch the video tutorial here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQHf8TIYC50>



Knit Kitty

This little kitty is a knitting pattern for those with basic knitting skills. Knit it flat in 3 pieces and then seam it together.

Did you spot this cat in the container?



MATERIALS

Yarn - Worsted weight yarn
Size 8 straight knitting needles
Stuffing

KNITTING

- 1 For the body:
Cast on 24 sts. Garter stitch 48 rows. Bind off.
- 2 For the head:
Cast on 14 sts. Row 1-15 knit. Rows 16-19 Knit 2 together, knit to end. Rows 20-23 Knit 1, K1 FB, Knit to end. Rows 24-37 knit. Bind off.
- 3 For the tail:
Cast on 16. Row 1: Knit Row 2: Knit 10, turn. Row 3: Knit.
- 4 Repeat rows 1-3, 3 times. Bind off.

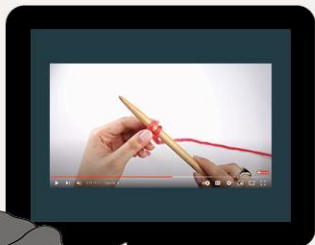
Continued on next card...

How to cast on



Watch the video tutorial here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vm6oaYzHyA>



How to garter stitch



Watch the video tutorial here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Gth9LGDvo8>



How to bind



Watch the video tutorial here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSwjIUQZIM>



This pattern and many more can be found at:

<https://gina-michele.com/2017/08/21/easy-plush-cat-free-knitting-pattern-2/>

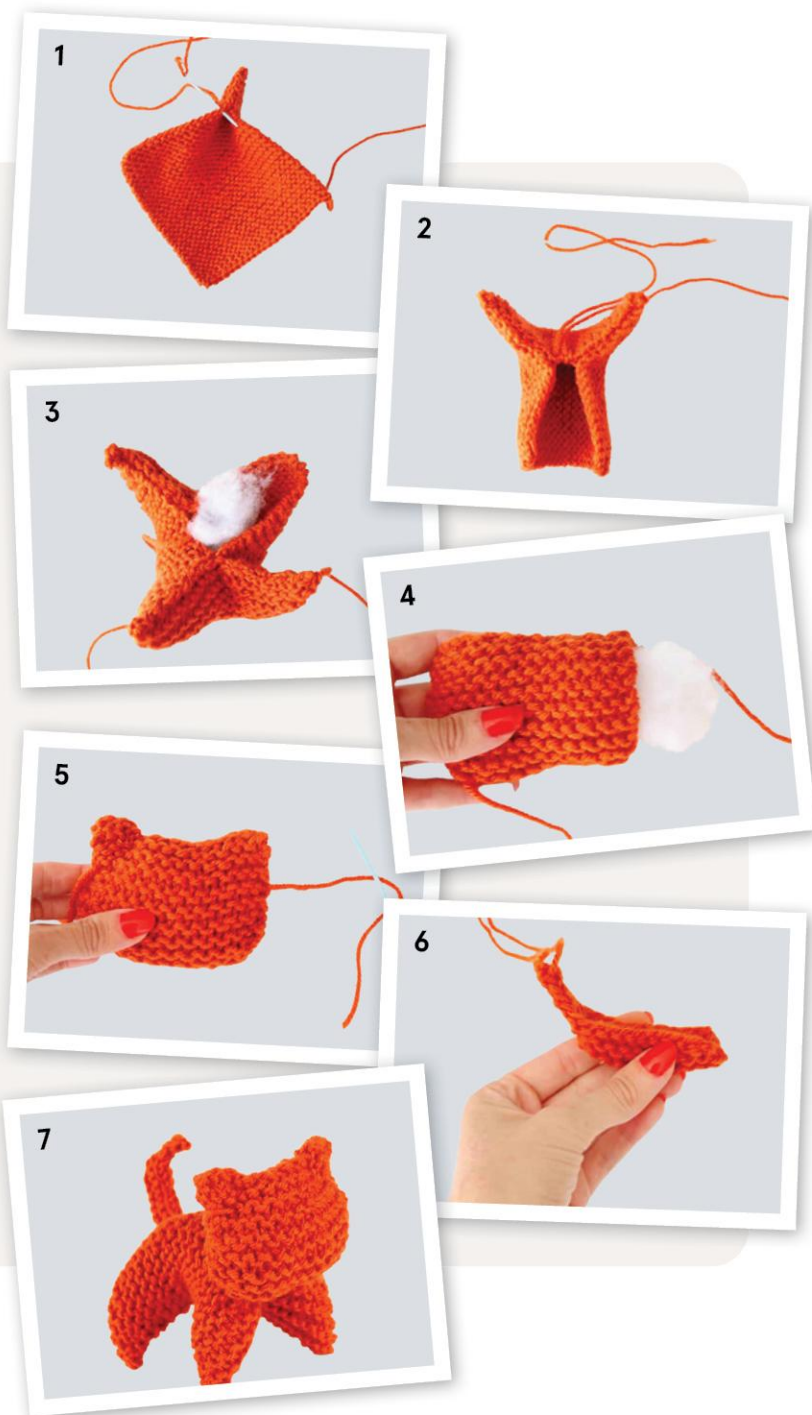


THE CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL

Knitting *continued*

PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

- 1 Take the body piece and sew to corner sides together. This creates the cat's legs.
- 2 Sew the sides together at the other side.
- 3 Sew the 3rd leg and add the stuffing. Sew the 4th leg closed.
- 4 Fold the head over and sew 2 of the seams. Add stuffing and sew the 3rd seam closed.
- 5 To make the ears look more defined, I added a stitching line at the base.
- 6 Fold the tail in half and stitch closed.
- 7 Sew the tail and head on to the body.



This pattern and many more can be found at:

<https://gina-michele.com/2017/08/21/easy-plush-cat-free-knitting-pattern-2/>



Paint with yarn

Create an abstract design or Vincent Van Gogh's starry night using coloured yarn and no paint!



MATERIALS

Paper

Scissors

Double-sided sticky tape or glue or clear duraseal

Yarn of all different colours

METHOD

- 1 **Either** spread glue on the paper **or** tape strips of double-sided tape side by side so most of the paper is covered or cut a piece of duraseal slightly smaller than your paper and tape the edges to your paper (sticky side up).
- 2 Tape down the edges of your paper to keep it still while you work.
- 3 Now arrange your yarn to make shapes, swirls and patterns!



TIP:

You could also use clear book duraseal instead of glue and tape!



Images from and lesson inspired by:
<https://picklebums.com/yarn-painting/>



Pom-poms

Use colourful yarn to make a pom-pom!



MATERIALS

Different coloured yarn
2 cardboard tubes
Scissors

METHOD

- 1 Hold the two toilet paper rolls together and wrap the yarn around them. The more yarn you wrap, the thicker your pom-pom will be.
- 2 Thread a piece of yarn between the two rolls and tie.
- 3 Slide the yarn off the toilet paper rolls.
- 4 Now tie the yarn around the pom-pom again, but tighter this time.
- 5 Cut through the loops of yarn on both sides.
- 6 Use your scissors to trim the pom-pom until it is round and fluffy.



Scan the QR code

to watch the video tutorial!



TIP:

You can create multiple pom-poms and string them together into a **garland**, use them as **decoration**, add them as '**bows**' to a gift, or even make a **necklace** with smaller pom-poms!



Images from and lesson inspired by:
The Artful Parent YouTube channel



Wool sewing

Sew the stars with these constellations or create your own designs!



MATERIALS

Yarn

Printouts

[Download here](#)

Hole punch

Pipe cleaner

METHOD

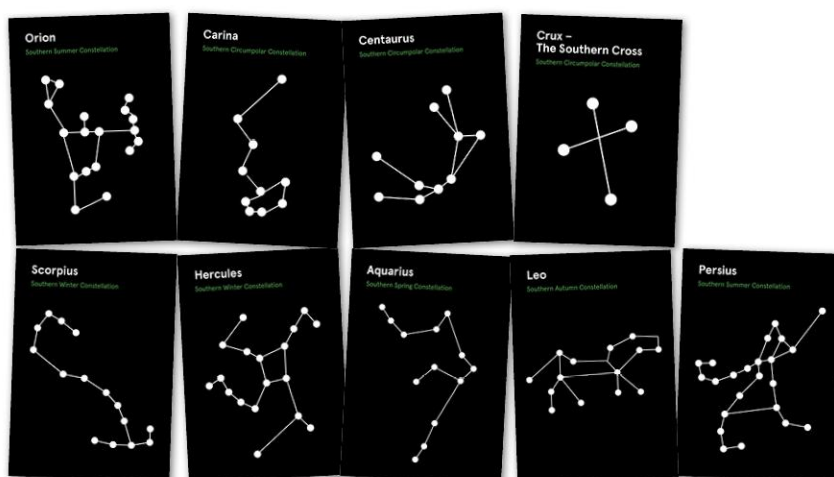
- 1 If you are using the constellation templates – hole punch the holes.
- 2 Use the pipe cleaner to make a 'needle' by twisting a loop at the end of the cleaner.
- 3 Tie or thread the yarn to the pipe cleaner.
- 4 Sew in and out of the constellation holes.

To create your own design:

- 1 On a paper plate or cardboard create a design and use a hole punch to make holes.
- 2 Repeat the steps above.



CONSTELLATION PRINTOUTS [Download here](#)



This pattern and many more can be found at:
<https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/53553/star-sewing-cards-kids/>



THE CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL