

# Cotton

## Ag in a Bag



### Reading Materials:

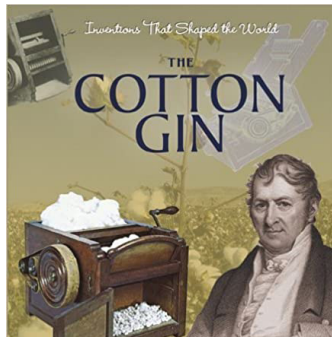


**Cotton Connection**  
(available online)

### Suggested Books:



**From Cotton to T-Shirt**  
by Robin Nelson  
<http://bit.ly/CottonRN>



**The Cotton Gin** by Nancy Robinson Masters  
<https://bit.ly/CottonGinNM>

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### Available Online:



**Cotton Connection Online:**  
<http://bit.ly/CottonConnection>

**COTTON USES:** plastics, paper products, lint, yarns, cosmetics, clothing, soaps, shoe strings, pillowcases, denim, dollar bills, cooking oil, salad dressing, livestock feed, natural fertilizer for lawns, cosmetics

#### WHAT IS COTTON?

Cotton is one of the most important crops grown in the United States. Cotton is a soft, fluffy staple fiber that grows in a boll around the seeds of cotton plants. There are three primary products derived from cotton production: cotton lint, fibers and cottonseed. Cotton lint is used in clothing, shoe strings, pillowcases, denim, towels and toilet paper. Linters are used in plastics, paper products, films, yarns and cosmetics. Cottonseed is crushed into three separate products—oil, meal and hulls. The oil is the cottonseed's most valuable by-product. It is obtained by cracking the cottonseed kernel. The oil is used in cooking oil, salad dressings, soaps, cosmetics and in preparation of snack foods like chips, crackers and cookies. The hulls are used in livestock feed, fertilizer, fuel and packing materials.

#### VOCABULARY

**BALE:** a bundle of cotton fiber, tightly compressed and secured with twine.

**BOLL:** the seed-bearing part of the cotton plant in which the cotton fibers are formed.

**DYE:** a natural substance used to add a color to or change the color of something.

**FIBER:** a fine, threadlike piece, produced by the cotton plant.

**FURROW:** a narrow groove made in the ground, especially by a plow.

**Cotton Reader**

### Learning Ag-tivities:



**Cotton Boll Dissection-** Take apart a boll of cotton to learn about the structure and function.

Find details at [www.mcleanaitc.org/cotton](http://www.mcleanaitc.org/cotton)



**Cotton Comparison -** Explore cotton vs. synthetic fibers

### Videos & More:



Find videos & additional activities about cotton at [www.mcleanaitc.org/cotton](http://www.mcleanaitc.org/cotton)

Show us your work! Take a photo & tag @McLeanAITC on Facebook!