

# Woolly the Sheep

## Interactive Storybook



# Meet Woolly and his family



Hi there! My name is **Woolly the Sheep**. I live at the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum in Ottawa, Ontario. It is very nice to meet you.

Would you like to be my friend? Read this book and you will discover all about me and my family.



This is me!

Here I am with my mom and my sister. My mom is called a **ewe**. You pronounce it like the letter **u**.

Do you know what a baby sheep is called? I am called a **lamb**.

My sister and I are **twins!** Most ewes give birth to one or two lambs, but sometimes they have triplets. This means that they give birth to three babies at once!



We make a “**baaa**” sound. It is called **bleating**. Can you **bleat** like a sheep?



At birth, my sister and I were wet. Our mom licked us dry and left her **scent** on us.

It's very important not to touch a newborn baby animal. It could remove the mother's scent and she may be unable to recognize her baby and care for it.



This is my dad. He is called a **ram**. Before coming to live at the Museum, he took part in beauty pageants for rams.

My dad won many prizes. Just like dogs get groomed at dog salons, my dad also got pampered and brushed to impress the judges. He also learned to stand tall and proud. Isn't my daddy handsome?



Sheep do not all look the same. I have short wool, others have long curly wool. Some sheep are white, others are black, brown, or even patchy.



Some sheep have **horns**. Their horns start growing after they are born. Jacob sheep can have up to 6 horns.

How many horns does this Jacob ram have?



# What does Woolly eat?



Can you guess what I'm doing in this picture? I'm drinking my mother's **milk**! This was my very first food.

Where does the milk come from? Look under my mom's tummy. The pink balloon-shaped bulge is called an **udder**. The udder has two finger-like parts called **teats**. That is where the milk comes out.

Did you know that all animals that feed their babies milk belong to the **mammal** class?



Sheep are mammals. What about you? Are you **warm blooded**? When you were a baby, were you fed **milk**? Do you have **hair**? Well, it seems to me that you are a mammal too!



I really liked milk. It is very **nutritious** and it made me grow fast! I drank my mother's milk for the first three months of my life.

Some ewes don't make enough milk to feed their lambs. When this happens, the lambs are **bottle fed**.

Now that I am older, can you guess what kind of food I eat?



grass



oats



hay

I mostly eat **grass** and **hay** (dried grass). I really like the taste of **oats**...for me it's like chocolate! But it's important that I don't eat too much of it or I could get an upset stomach.



It's lunchtime! The herdsman is bringing us some fresh hay. Mmm...yummy!

I have a little quiz for you. If I eat plants, what does that make me?

- a) **carnivore** (meat eater)
- b) **omnivore** (plant and meat eater)
- c) **herbivore** (plant eater)

If you guessed **c) herbivore**, you are right! Sheep are herbivores. How about you, are you a carnivore, an omnivore, or a herbivore?



# Keeping Woolly safe

Like all sheep, I do not like to be alone. Sheep like to stay close together and follow each other around. A group of sheep is called a **flock**.

We often have a companion that watches over us when we are in the pasture. Can you guess which animal I'm talking about?



horse



donkey



goat



cow



You are right if you guessed a **donkey**! This is Florence. She lives with me at the Museum. Florence is known as a **guard animal**. She is my friend. She protects me and the other sheep from **predators**.



Do you know what a predator is? It is an animal that eats other animals. Here are some examples of sheep predators. Can you name them?



**cougar**



**coyote**



**fox**



**wolf**

How do you think Florence protects us? If Florence sees a predator she chases it away, or she bites and kicks the predator until it runs away. I am very happy to have a guardian since we sheep make easy prey. When we are in danger, we prefer to stay together and will flee rather than fight.

Can you think of other animals that guard and protect flocks of sheep? **Dogs** and even **llamas** are also good guard animals.



# Where does Woolly live?



I enjoy going out in the **pasture** in the summertime, but in winter I would rather stay in the **sheep barn**. The sheep barn is our house. It is warm and cozy. There is a lot of **straw** and this is very comfortable, especially for a nap. Shhh...I'm trying to sleep!

# Why do farmers keep sheep?

A person that raises and cares for sheep is called a **sheep farmer**. Sheep farmers raise sheep for their:



**meat**



**milk**



**wool**

## Meat

Most sheep in Canada are raised for meat. Sheep meat is often called **mutton** or **lamb**.

## Milk

Ewe's milk like my mother's makes really good cheese and yogurt. Perhaps you have tried cheese made sheep milk? Well-known cheeses such as **Greek feta**, **French Roquefort** and **Italian ricotta** are made with sheep milk.



feta



ricotta



Roquefort

# Wool

In Canada, sheep farmers rarely raise us for our wool. Wool is a **by-product**. Because wool does not bring in a lot of money, farmers would prefer to avoid shearing us altogether. But wool is a wonderful **fibre**, and you can make all sorts of things with it. Can you name some?



## Woolly gets a hair cut!

How do I take my **fleece** off? That's right, it is cut off! Do you think it hurts when I get my fleece **shorn**? Does it hurt you when you get a haircut? Of course not! And it's just the same for sheep.



Aren't these funny-looking scissors? They are called **hand shears**. Years ago, they would have been used to shear our fleece.



Today, most **sheep shearers** use **electric shears**. These look just like the clippers the hairdresser or barber uses to cut hair except they are a little bigger. The sheep's fleece is removed in one long piece.



I hope you had fun learning about me and my family. I had so much fun talking to you today. For fun activities about wool and sheep, take a look at the Educational Activity Kit "**From Sheep to Sweater**" at: [ingeniumcanada.org](http://ingeniumcanada.org).

