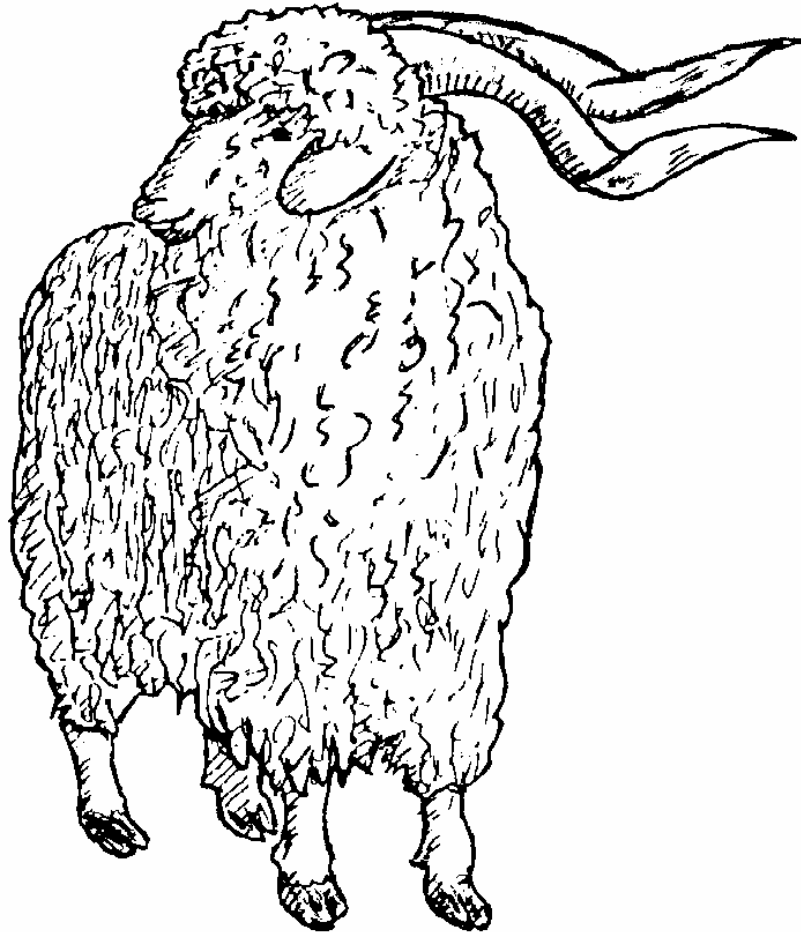


Learning About Goats

Elementary Level Packet



Sponsored By
Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers' Association



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Learning About Goats

Goats may have been the first hoofed animals that were ever tamed. People have been keeping tame goats since as long ago as 6,000 or 7,000 years BC. In the days of early explorers, sailors kept goats on ships to provide milk and meat on long voyages. Dairy goats were brought to North America to supply early settlers with milk.



Goats live in groups called **herds**. A male goat is called a **buck**, or “billy” goat. Female goats are called **does**, or “nanny” goats. A baby goat is referred to as a **kid**. Most breeds of goats give birth to a single kid, but twins or even triplets are not unusual. Kids can stand on their own within minutes after birth, and can move with the herd almost immediately.

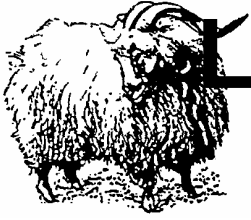
Goats eat almost any kind of plant material. They will eat grass, leaves, twigs, berries, and even lichens and bitter desert plants. Because of this, goats are being used in many areas of the western United States to help control unwanted plants and weeds that are crowding out native grasses and other types of vegetation. In Texas, goats are used to help control unwanted cedar trees. Goats help the environment because people don’t need to use as much **herbicide** to control these plant pests that goats eat. This also helps to save farmers and ranchers money.



Goats are adapted to living in rough, dry, mountainous types of habitats where other livestock or crops cannot be grown. They are very agile and good at climbing. **Predators** such as mountain lions, coyotes, and bobcats like to eat goats, especially young kids. Special guard dogs help to protect goats from predators.

We get many different products from goats. Some goats are raised for meat or milk. Over 80% of people in the world eat goat meat on a regular basis. Goat meat is very healthy and low in fat and cholesterol. Milk from goats is very nutritious and is used to make many different types of cheese.

Other types of goats are raised for their hair. The hair from Angora goats is removed, or **sheared**, to give us a fiber called **mohair**. Mohair is used to make beautiful and often expensive items like coats and sweaters. Over 90% of all mohair produced in the United States, and 50% of the world production, comes from Texas. **Cashmere** is another fiber used in making expensive clothing items. It comes from a type of goat called a cashmere goat, and is very soft, warm, and long-wearing.



Learning About Goats



Study Questions

Answer the following questions. Be sure to use complete sentences.

1. How long have people been keeping tame goats? _____

2. What is a baby goat called? What do we call a female goat? A male goat? _____

3. What do goats eat? _____

4. How can goats be used to control unwanted vegetation? _____

5. Name two ways goats help the environment. _____

6. What kind of habitat are goats adapted to living in? _____

7. How are goats protected from predators? _____

8. How many people in the world eat goat meat on a regular basis? _____

9. Why is goat meat healthy for you? _____

10. What else can goat milk be used for besides drinking? _____

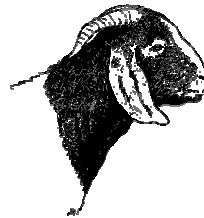
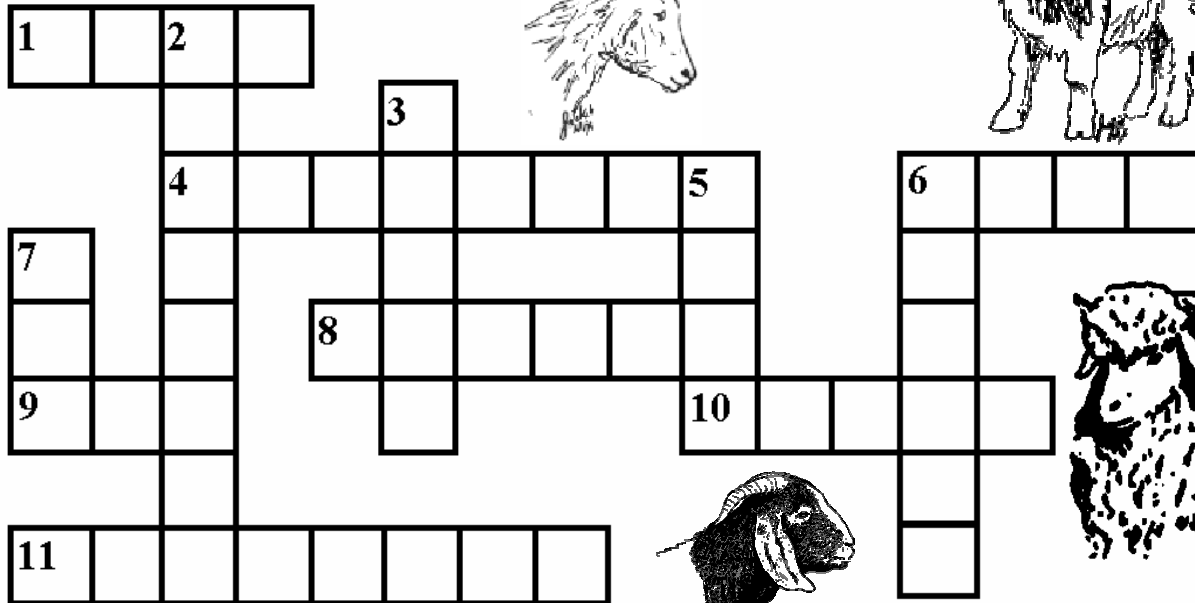
11. What are the two types of fibers that we get from goats that can be used to make clothing?

- *12. Why do you think early settlers to North America chose to bring goats instead of cows? Give two possible reasons.** _____



Learning About Goats

Crossword Puzzle



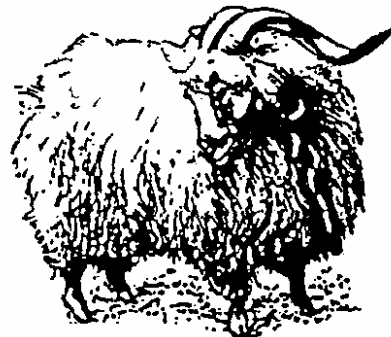
Use the words from the reading to help you find the answers to the puzzle.

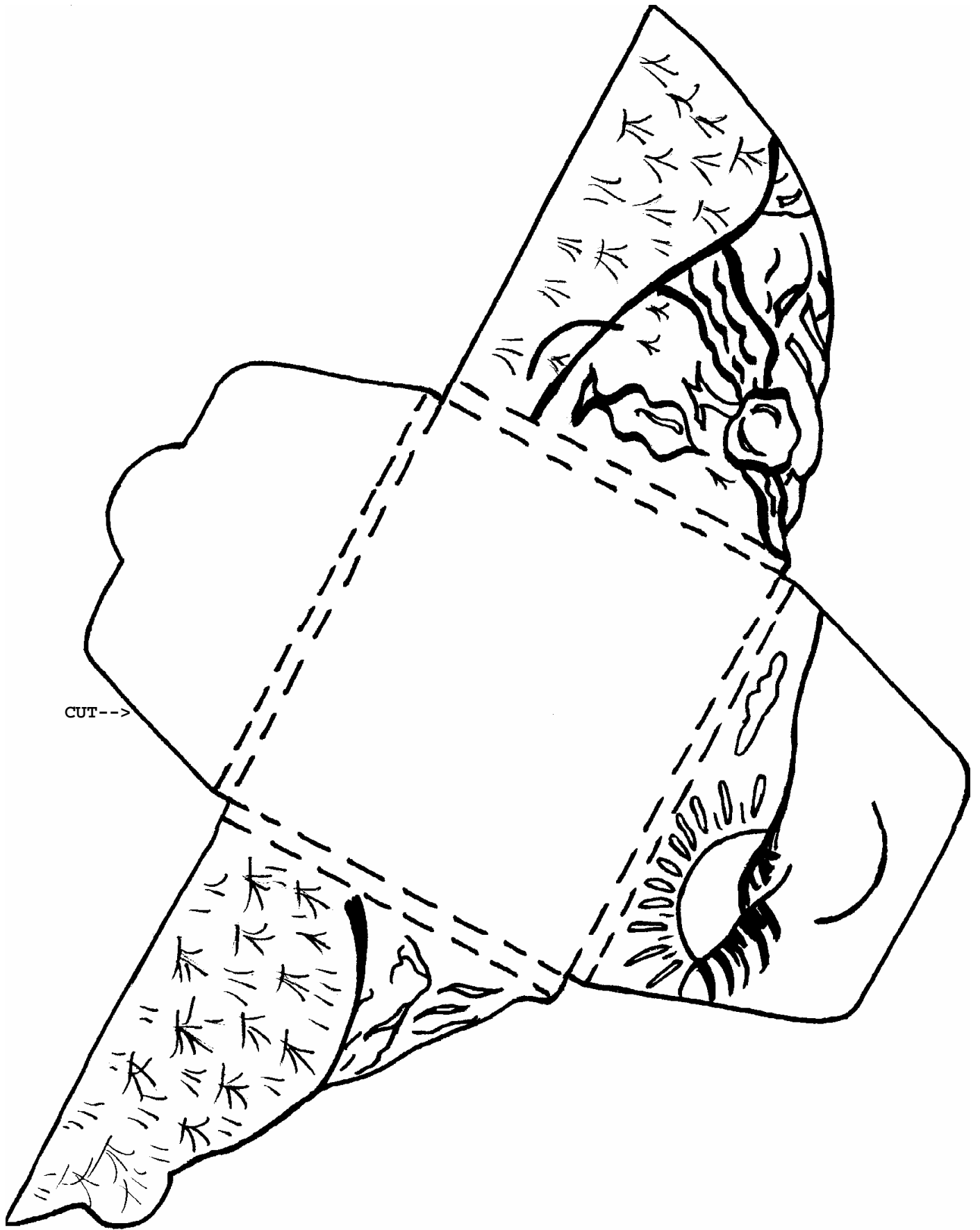
Across:

1. Male goat.
4. The process of removing the hair from goats.
6. Food product from goats.
8. Type of goat that gives us very fine fiber used most often in clothing.
9. A female goat.
10. State where most mohair comes from.
11. Animal that hunts and kills other animals for food.

Down:

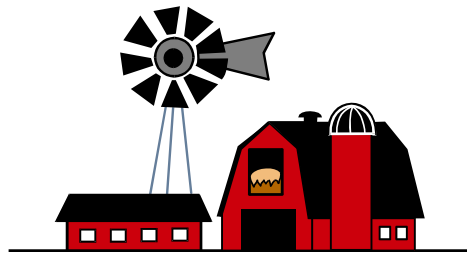
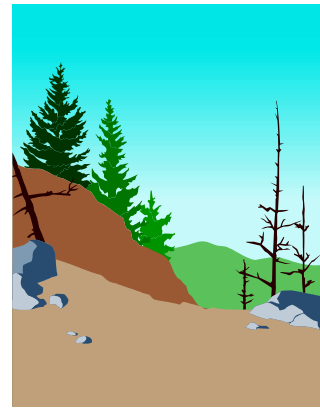
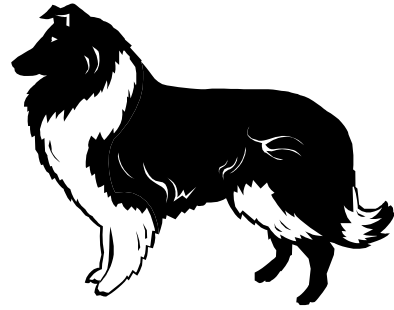
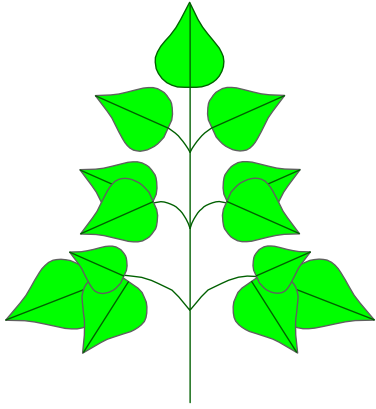
2. Short, soft, down-like fiber.
3. Another name for a female goat.
5. Animal that gives us meat, milk, and fiber.
6. Hair from an Angora goat.
7. A baby goat.





Making a Goat Habitat Box.

1. Color the scene on the box.
2. Assemble as follows:
 - A. Cut out the box on the solid lines.
 - B. Cut the tab openings.
 - C. Fold toward the center on the dashed line.
 - D. Fit tabs into openings to close.
 - E. Put your name on the back.
3. On the next page, color and cut out the pictures of the things goats need to stay healthy.
4. On the back of the card, tell why it is important.
5. Put the cards inside your assembled box.





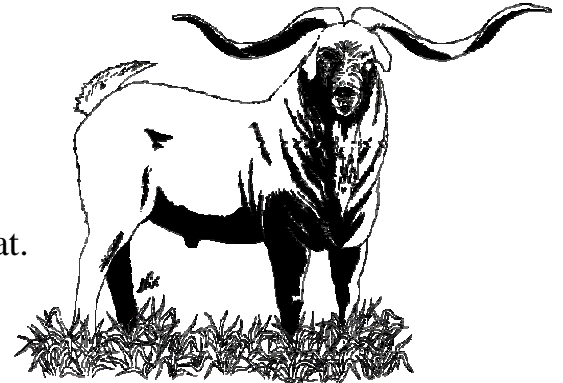
Learning About Goats

Glossary

Angora: The type of goat that produces mohair.

Billy goat: Another name used to refer to a male goat.

Buck: A male goat.



Cashmere: The short, soft, down-like fiber from goats used to make expensive and luxurious types of clothing.

Doe: A female goat.

Fleece: The coat of hair that is removed from a goat when it is sheared.

Herbicide: A chemical used to kill or control unwanted vegetation.

Herd: A group of goats. Also means to gather animals together into a group.

Kid: A baby goat.

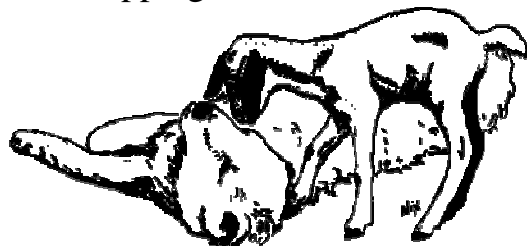
Mohair: The fine fiber used most often in clothing that comes from angora goats. Texas produces 90% of the mohair in the U.S.

Nanny goat: Another name for a female goat.

Predators: Animals such as coyotes, wolves, mountain lions, and bobcats that hunt other animals for food.

Range: The countryside over which goats and other types of grazing animals roam.

Shearing: The process of clipping the coat of hair from goats or sheep.





Learning About Goats

Answer Key

TEKS Correlation:

§112.6 4.2(C), 4.3(B)(C)(D)(E), 4.5(A)(B), 4.8(A)(B), 4.10(A)(B) **§112.7** 5.2(C), 5.3(B)(C)(D)(E), 5.5(A)(B), 5.6(C), 5.9(A)(B)(C), 5.11(A)(B), **§112.22** 6.2(C), 6.3(B)(C)(D)(E), 6.8(C), 6.12(C)
§113.6 4.4(B), 4.9(A)(B)(C), 4.13(A), 4.14(B), 4.22(A)(D), 4.23(A), 4.24(A)(B)(D) **§113.7** 5.4(F), 5.9(A)(B)(C), 5.14(A), 5.24(D)(E), 5.25(A)(D), 5.26(A)(B)(E), 5.27(A)(B) **§113.22** 6.6(B)(C), 6.7(A)(B)(C), 6.17(A), 6.21(C)(D), 6.22(A)(B)(C), 6.23(A)(B)(C)

Study Questions

1. People have been keeping tame goats for as far back as 6,000 to 7,000 BC.
2. A baby goat is called a kid. A female goat is called a doe, or a nanny goat, and a male goat is called a buck, or a Billy goat.
3. Goats will eat most any kind of vegetation. They eat grass, leaves, twigs, berries, lichens and bitter desert plants.
4. Goats will eat plants that other animals will not, or can not eat.
5. Goats help the environment by clearing out unwanted, or exotic vegetation, by reducing the need for herbicides. This also saves money for farmers and ranchers.
6. Goats are adapted to rough, dry, mountainous types of habitats where other livestock or crops cannot be grown.
7. Dogs help to protect goats from predators.
8. Eighty percent of the world's population eats goat meat on a regular basis.
9. Goat meat is healthy for you because it is low in fat and cholesterol.
10. Goat milk is used extensively in making different types of cheese.
11. Mohair and cashmere are the two types of fiber that we get from goats to use in making clothing.
12. Early settlers to North America took goats with them because goats took up less space aboard the ships. Because of their diets, goats were also easier to feed and care for in the New World, while still providing them with meat and milk

Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. buck
4. shearing
6. meat or milk
8. angora
9. doe
10. Texas
11. predator

Down

2. Cashmere
3. Nanny
5. Goat
6. Mohair
7. Kid

Goat Habitat Box

All items are necessary. *Plants* provide food. *Dog* provides protection from predators. *Stream* provides water. *Hillside* provides range and habitat. *Barn* provides shelter in severe weather.

