



# Learning About Sheep

## *Study Questions*

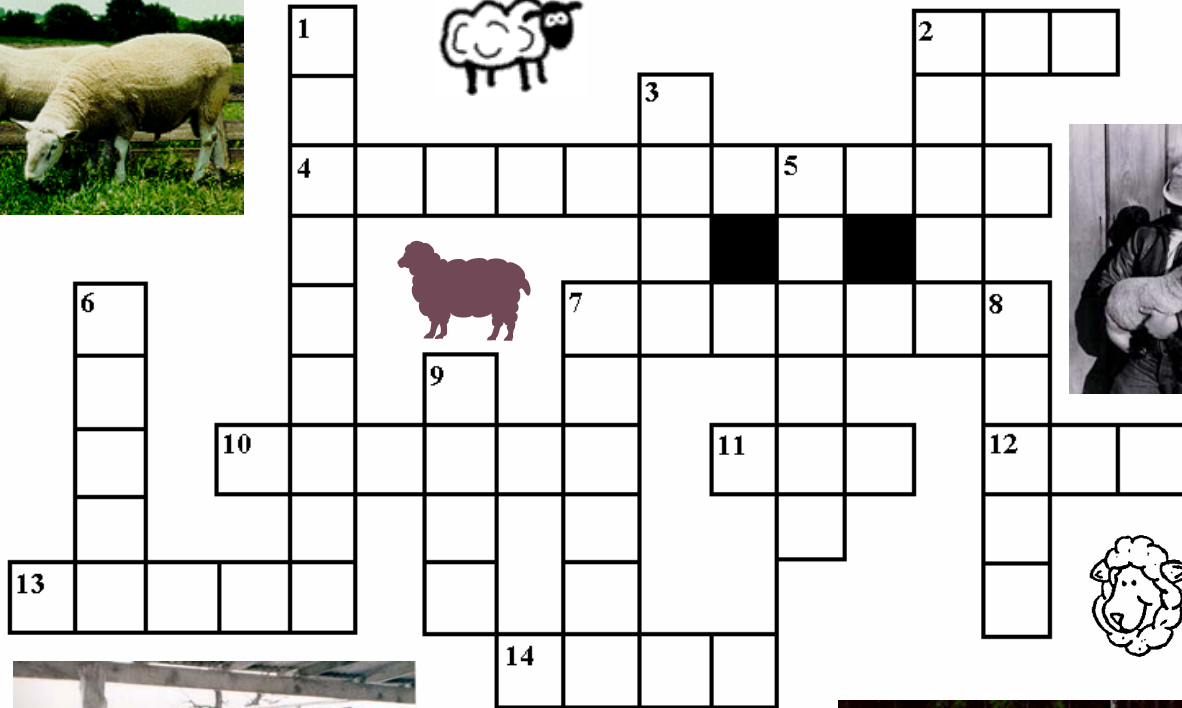


Answer the following questions about what you have read. Be sure to use complete sentences.

1. When were sheep probably domesticated? In what part of the world? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What are some of the major characteristics of sheep? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How can ewes and lambs identify each other? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What are the two major products sheep are raised for? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Name four predators that ranchers must protect sheep from. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What are some of the things that ranchers do to protect their sheep from predators? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. A sheep's diet consists of what kinds of foods? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. The proper movement of sheep over a range has what beneficial effects on the land? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What are three other ways various states are using sheep to help the environment? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Besides meat and wool, what other products do we get from sheep? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Discuss three reasons sheep can be considered to be "Earth-Friendly" animals. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Learning About Sheep

## Crossword Puzzle



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

### Across:

2. Male sheep.
4. What sheep help to benefit.
7. Products made from wool.
10. Plants used by sheep for food.
11. Animal used to protect sheep.
12. Female sheep.
13. Plant with parallel veins.
14. One of the main products we get from sheep.

### Down:

1. Animals that hunt other animals for food
2. The land over which sheep roam.
5. Type of meat that we get from sheep.
6. To remove the hair from sheep.
7. Product made from sheep's milk.
8. An "Earth-friendly" animal.
9. A baby sheep.



# Learning About Sheep

## *Glossary*



**Bleat:** The sound sheep make.

**Browse:** Vegetation such as leaves, twigs, and stems of woody plants.

**Ewe:** A female sheep

**Fleece:** The coat of wool that is removed from a sheep when it is sheared.

**Flock:** A group of sheep.

**Forage:** Plants that animals use for food. Sheep prefer plants often referred to as weeds.

**Forb:** A broad-leafed plant that has webbed veins.

**Herbivore:** Animals that eat plants.

**Herd:** To gather together into a group. A group of over 1,000 sheep is sometimes called a herd.

**Lamb:** A baby sheep. Can also refer to the meat from sheep that are not yet fully grown.

**Mutton:** Meat from a full-grown, adult sheep.

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

**Ram:** A male sheep.

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

**Ruminant:** A hoofed, cud-chewing animal with a four compartment stomach.

**Shearing:** The process of removing the coat of wool from sheep.

**Shepherd or Sheepherder:** A person who tends to and takes cares of flocks of sheep.

**Wool:** The fiber we get from sheep that is used for cloth and many other valuable products.





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## Answer Key

### TEKS Correlation:

§112.22 6.2(C), 6.3(B)(C)(D)(E), 6.8(C), 6.12(C) §112.23 7.3(B), 7.5(B), 7.12(A,B,C,D), (7.14)B,C §112.24 8.3(B), 8.6(C), 8.11(A,B), 8.14(B,C), §112.43(3)B; (12)B,C,E; (13)A §112.44 (3)B,C; (4)C,D,E; (5)C,E,F; (8)C

### Study Questions

1. Sheep were probably domesticated about 11,000 years ago in what is now northern Iraq.
2. Sheep are even-toed, hoofed animals that lack upper incisor teeth. They are cud-chewing animals with a four compartmented stomach.
3. Ewes identify their lambs by the smell of her milk passing through the lamb. Lambs identify their mothers by sound and by smell.
4. Sheep are raised primarily for either food or for their pelts (fiber).
5. Sheep must be protected from predators such as coyotes, mountain lions, bobcats, wolves, domestic dogs, foxes, raccoons, and golden eagles.
6. Ranchers protect their sheep from predators by using guard dogs, donkeys, or llamas. They also use pens, electric fences, and noise-making devices to foil predators.
7. Sheep are herbivores that eat both grasses and forbs.
8. The proper movement of sheep over the range improves the land because sheep break up the soil for seedlings to get established on, fertilize the land with their wastes, and eat many types of undesirable plants, keeping them under control.
9. In California sheep are being used to maintain firebreaks. Washington, Oregon, and California use sheep to control plant growth in new forests. Vermont uses sheep to keep down vegetation on ski slopes during the summer.
10. Other products from sheep include medicines, chewing gum, crayons, cosmetics, shampoo, conditioner, paints, tires, antifreeze, explosives, oil spill cleaning products.
11. Answers will vary. Because sheep are good for the environment, renewable, biodegradable, all natural, and provide us with a multitude of quality products.

### Crossword Puzzle

#### Across

2. Ram
4. Environment
7. Clothes
10. Forage
11. Dog
12. Ewe
13. Grass
14. Meat

#### Down

1. Predators
2. Range
5. Mutton
6. Shear
7. Cheese
8. Sheep
9. Lamb

