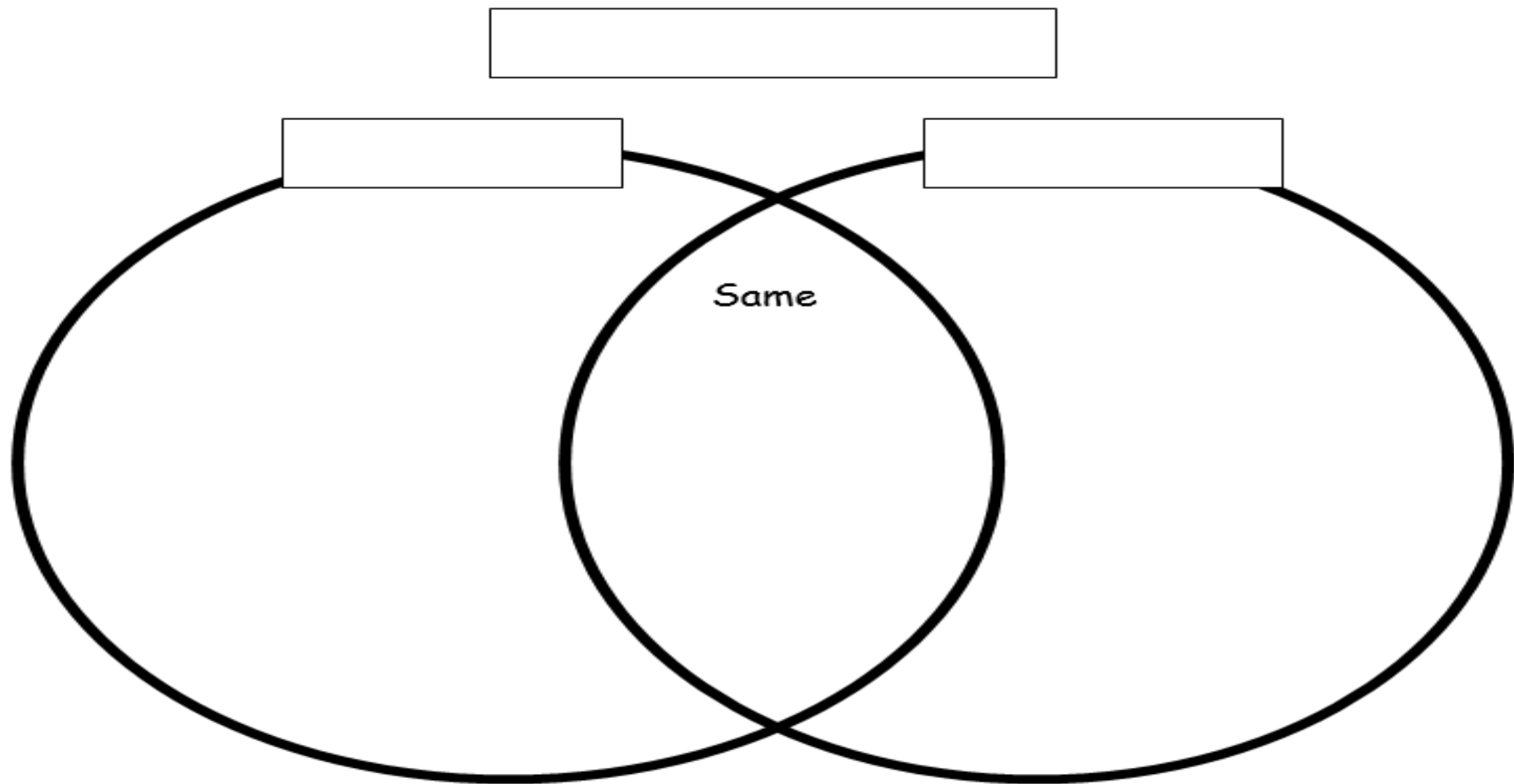


Compare and Contrast

Use the Venn Diagram that follows to list how these sheep are different and the same.



Franz Van Leemputten

Born 1850, Werchter, Belgium

Died 1914, Antwerp, Belgium

Shepherdess, late 19th century

Oil on canvas

1968.7

Van Leemputten's bucolic scene of a shepherdess with her flock is a common eighteenth and nineteenth subject in art. Idealized, the pasture and its denizens reflect a nostalgia for rural life during a period of industrialization and urbanization. Unlike other grazing animals, sheep (*Ovis aries*) require constant attention, hence the need for someone to watch over them. Because of their herd mentality, they often follow each other blindly into dangerous situations.





John Steuart Curry

Born 1897, Dunavant, Kansas

Died 1946, Madison Wisconsin

Sheep Field Hillside, 1924

Watercolor with graphite on paper

Bequest of Kathleen G. Curry, 2002.1484

Curry likely chose the subject of sheep because of his farm roots. He may have been intrigued by this flock in New York State, where he was vacationing, because of controversies related to the animal in his home state of Kansas. After their introduction to Kansas in the 1870s, sheep became a source of contention among landowners. Many thought that sheep grazing habits ruined pastures for the cattle. This led to the fencing off of pastureland among neighbors.

Sheep Facts

Ovis aries

There are over 1 billion sheep in the world and over 200 breeds.

China has the largest number of sheep in the world. Sheep have a field of vision of around 300 degrees, allowing them to see behind themselves without having to turn their head.

In 1996, a sheep named Dolly (below) was the first mammal to be cloned from a somatic cell.



- Adult female sheep are known as ewes.
- Adult male sheep are known as rams.
- Castrated adult male sheep are known as wethers.
- A group of sheep is known as a herd, flock or mob.
- Young sheep are called lambs.
- Sheep like to stay close to others in a herd which makes them easier to move together to new pastures.



Sounds made by domestic sheep include bleats, grunts, rumbles and snorts. Bleating ("baaing") is used mostly for contact communication, especially between dam and lambs. The bleats of individual sheep are distinctive, enabling the ewe and her lambs to recognize each other's voice. Bleating may also signal distress, frustration or impatience; however, sheep are usually silent when in pain. A snort (explosive exhalation through the nostrils) may signal aggression or a warning.

Shearing

Sheep shearing is the process by which the fleece is cut off. The person who removes the sheep's wool is called a shearer. Typically each adult sheep is shorn once each year, right as the weather gets warm. The annual shearing most often occurs in a shearing shed.

Blade shears have largely been replaced by electric shears, as seen at the right. But many places still use blade shears as it leaves some wool on the sheep.

In some primitive sheep (for example in many Shetlands), there is a natural break in the growth of the wool in spring. By late spring this causes the fleece to begin to peel away from the body, and it may then be plucked by hand without cutting – this is known as *rooing*.

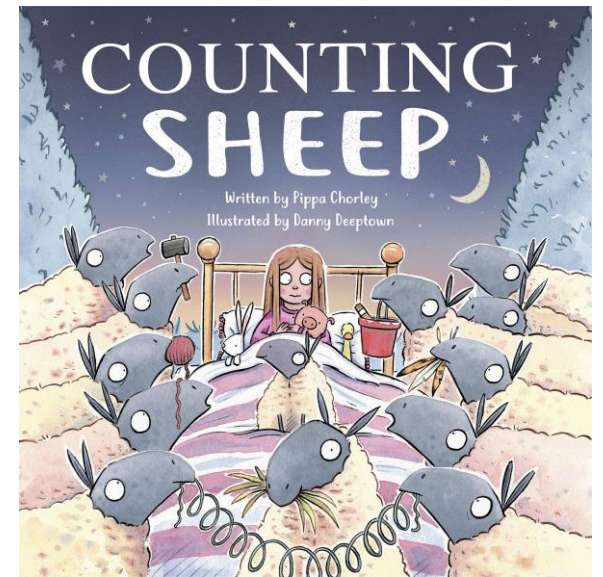
Is it cruel to shear a sheep? Domestic sheep do not naturally shed their winter coats. If one year's wool is not removed by shearing, the next year's growth just adds to it, resulting in sheep that overheat in summer.



It would be cruel not to shear a sheep!



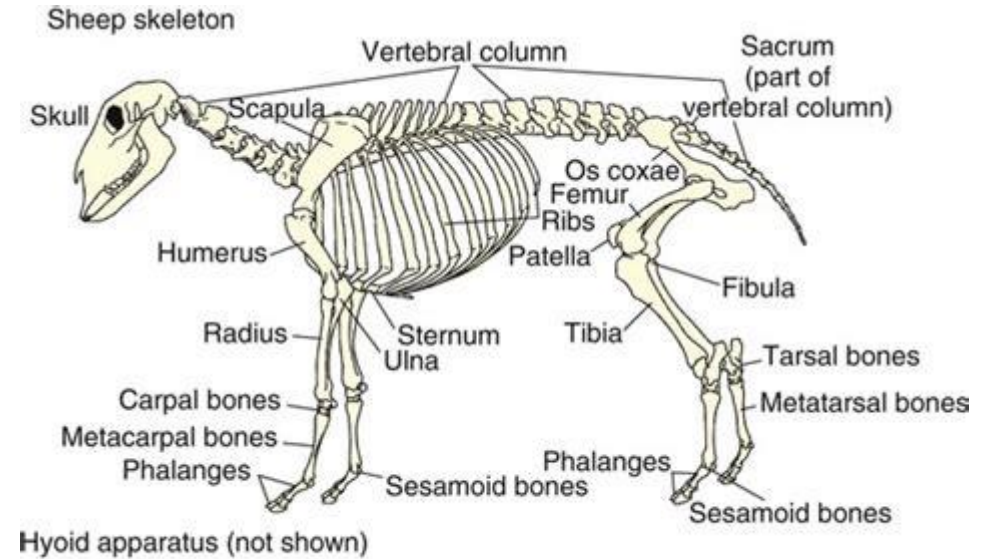
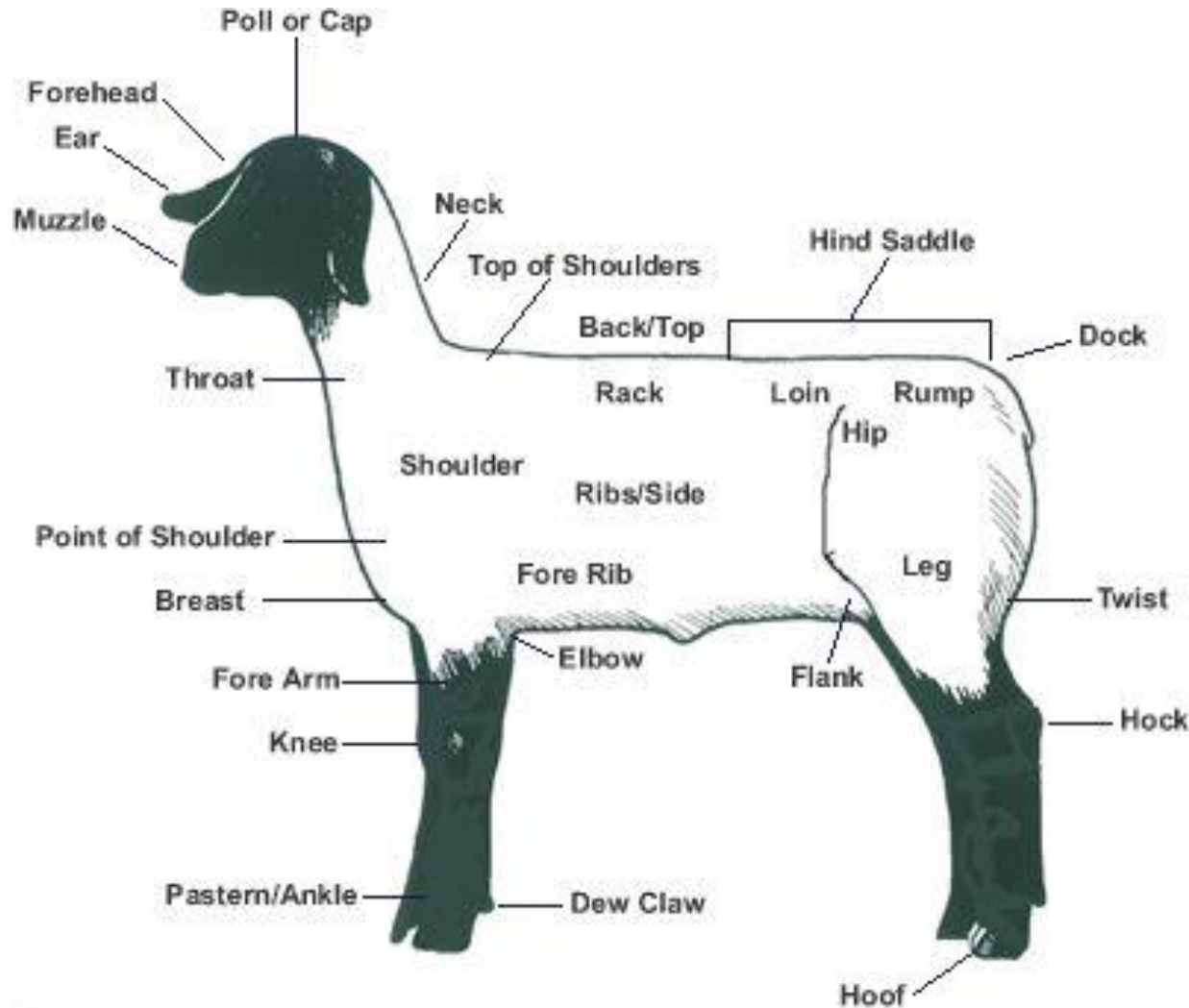
Counting Sheep



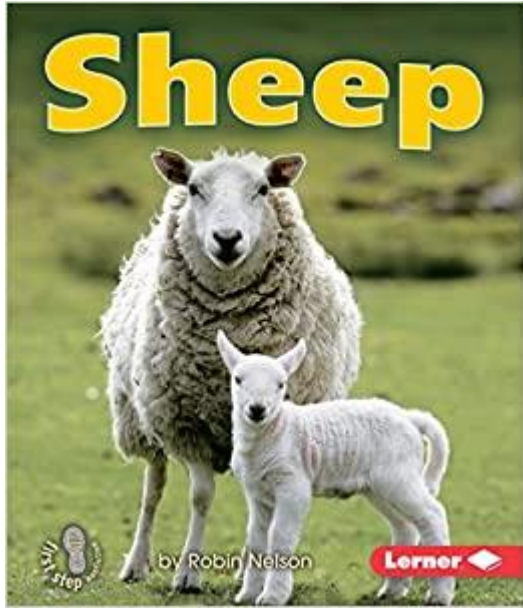
Counting sheep is a mental exercise used in some Western cultures as a means of putting oneself to sleep. In most depictions of the activity, the practitioner envisions an endless series of identical white sheep jumping over a fence, while counting them as they do so. The idea, presumably, is to induce boredom while occupying the mind with something simple, repetitive, and rhythmic, all of which are known to help humans sleep.

Although the practice is largely a stereotype, and rarely a real solution for insomnia, it has been so commonly referenced by cartoons, comic strips, and other mass media, that it has become deeply engrained into popular culture's notion of sleep. The term "counting sheep" has entered the English language as an idiomatic term for insomnia.

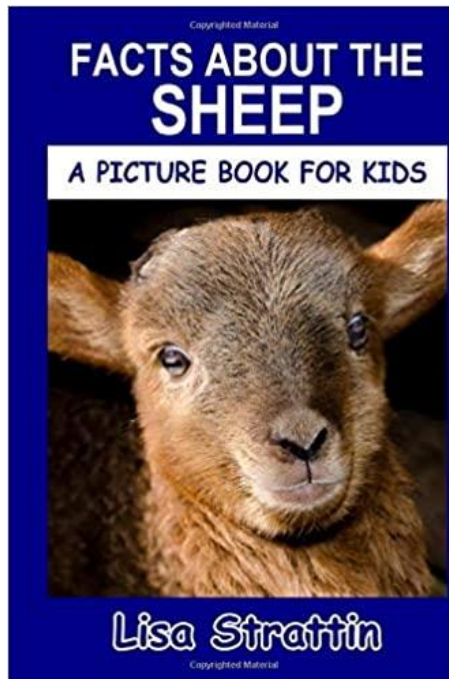
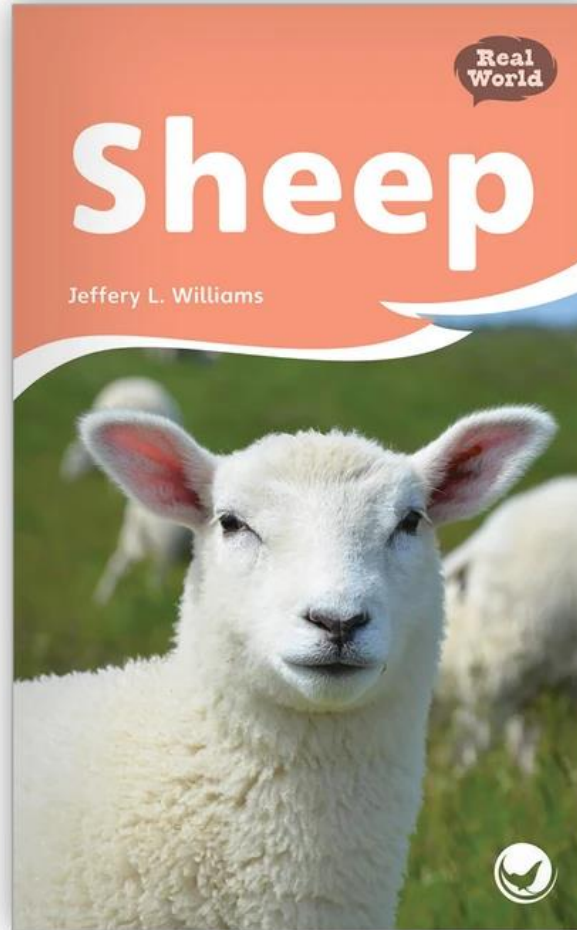
Sheep Anatomy



B



Learn more about Sheep



Additional sheep from the BMA collection



Margaret Evelyn Whittemore

Sheep, mid 20th century

Color block print on creme paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, 2015.172

Carl M. Schultheiss

Peaceful Afternoon, 1950

Engraving on paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of the family of E. Hubert Deines, 1969.93a





Caroline Thorington

Sheep May Safely Graze, 2002

Color lithograph on paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift
of Caroline Thorington, 2017.269



A. Ducôté of St. Martin's Lane

A Fell Scene, Drovers, 1837

Lithograph on paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of C.E. Denman, 2008.436

John Steuart Curry

Sheep in Field, ca. 1925

Watercolor with black crayon on paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, bequest of Kathleen G. Curry,
2002.1179

Sheep Field Hillside, 1924

Watercolor with graphite on paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, bequest of Kathleen G. Curry,
2002.1172

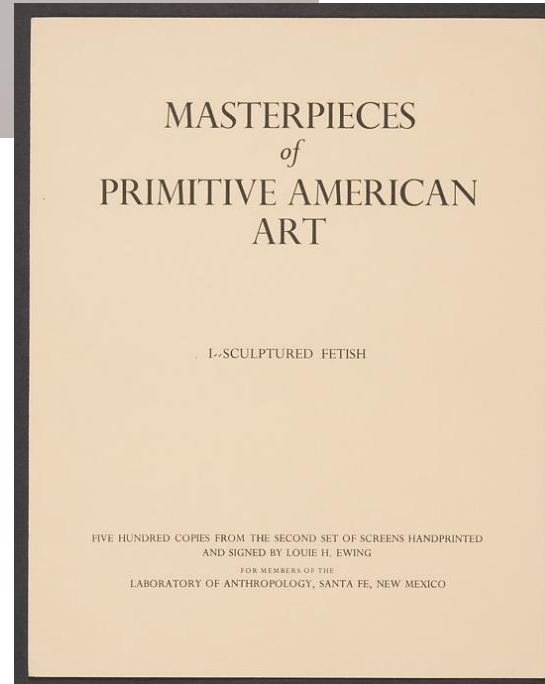




Louie Ewing

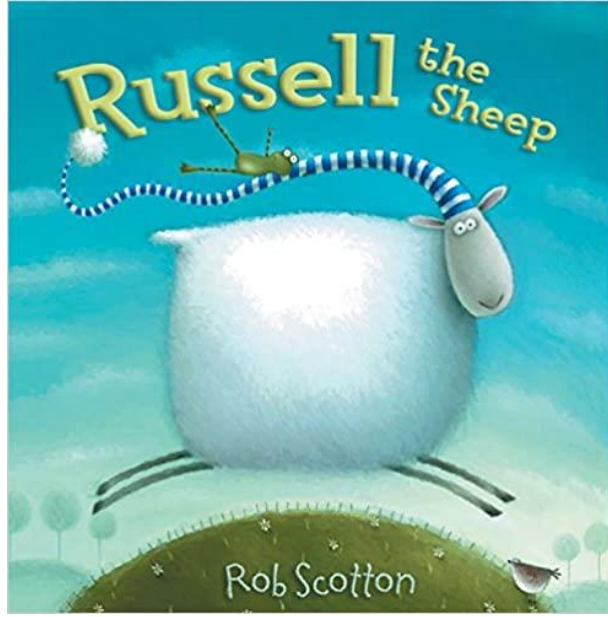
Sculptural Fetish (print and print folio),
1942

Screenprint and letterpress on paper
KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of
Art, Friends of the Beach Museum of Art
purchase, 2000.239

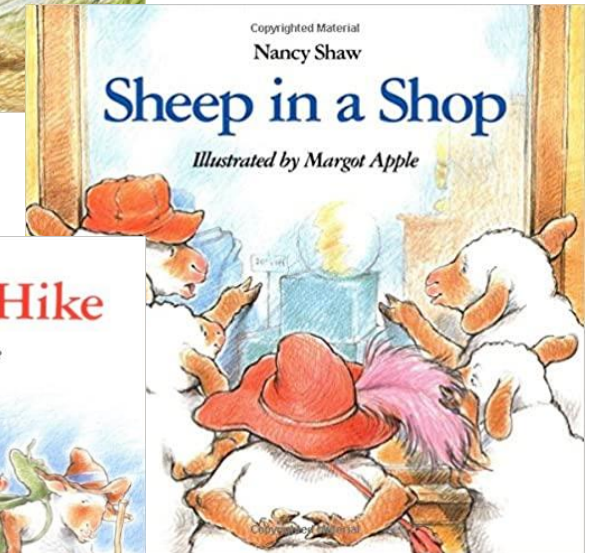
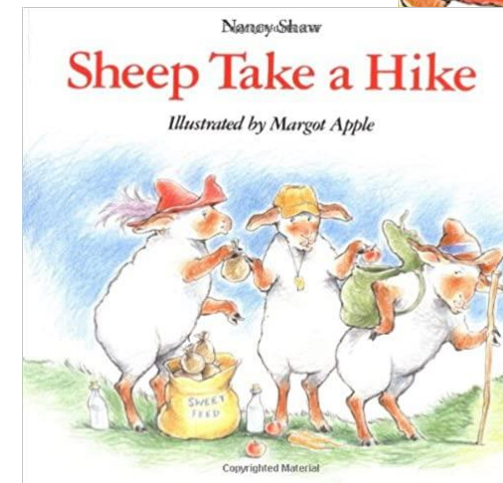
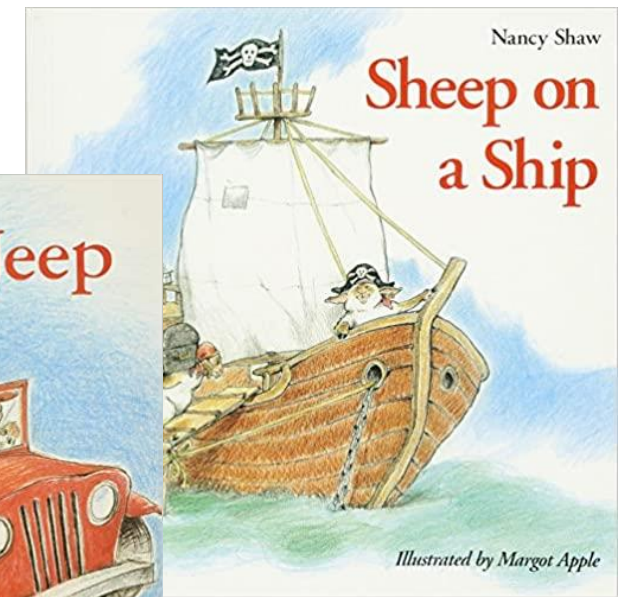
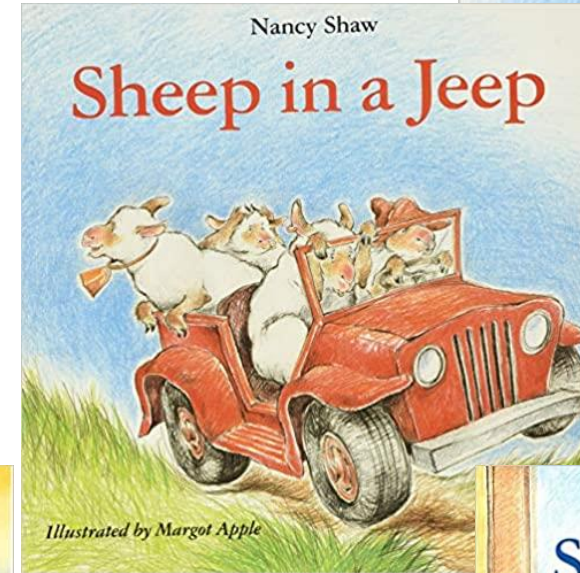
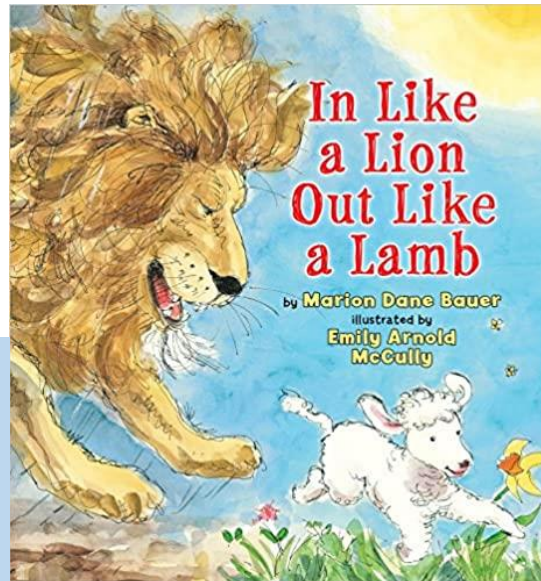


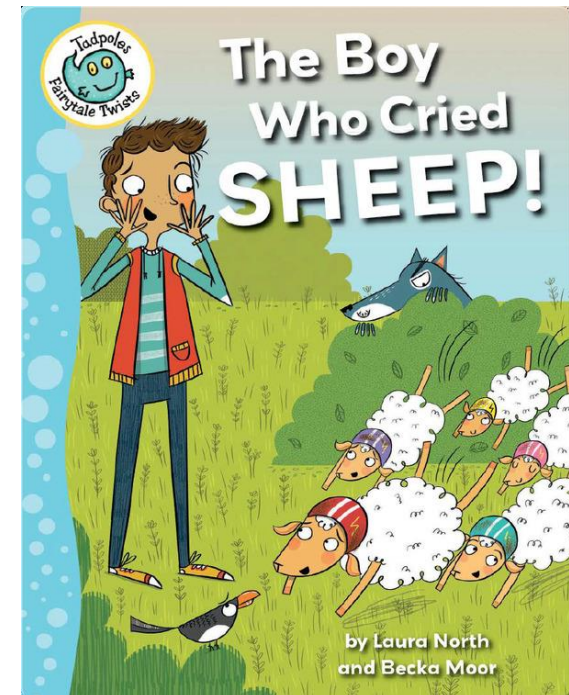
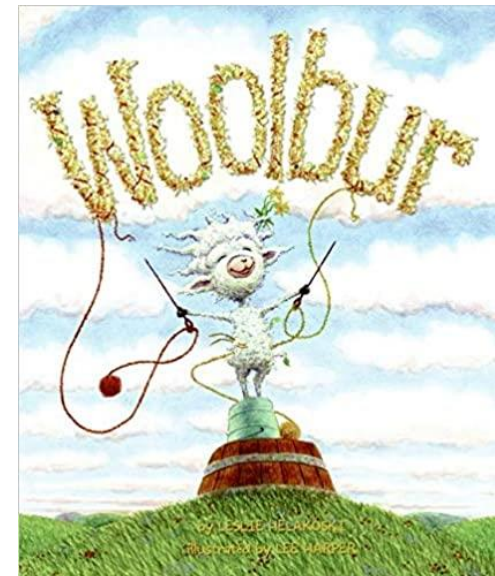
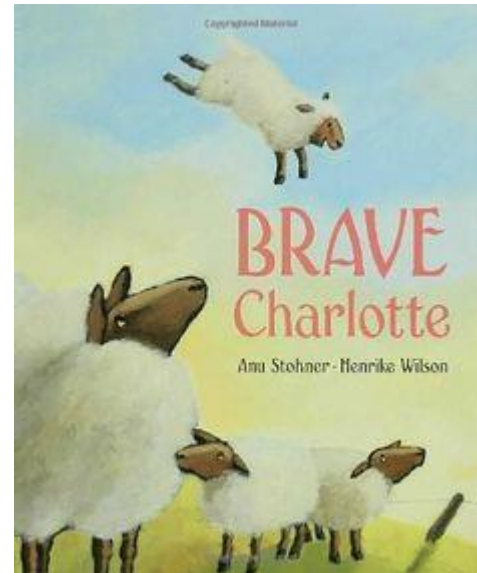
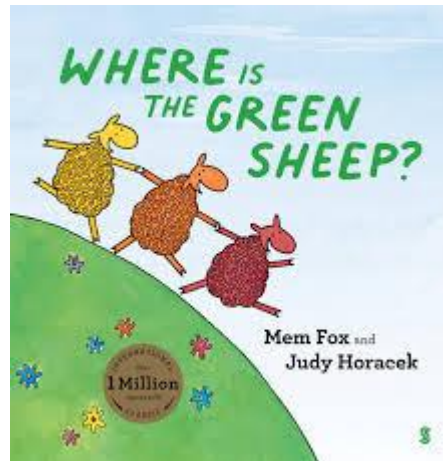
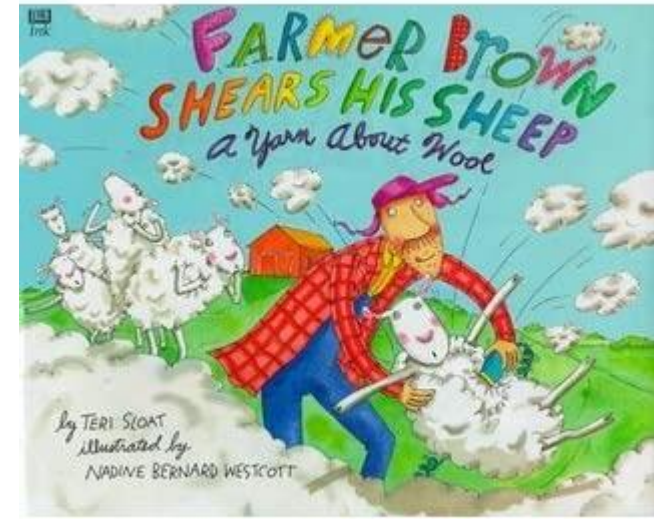
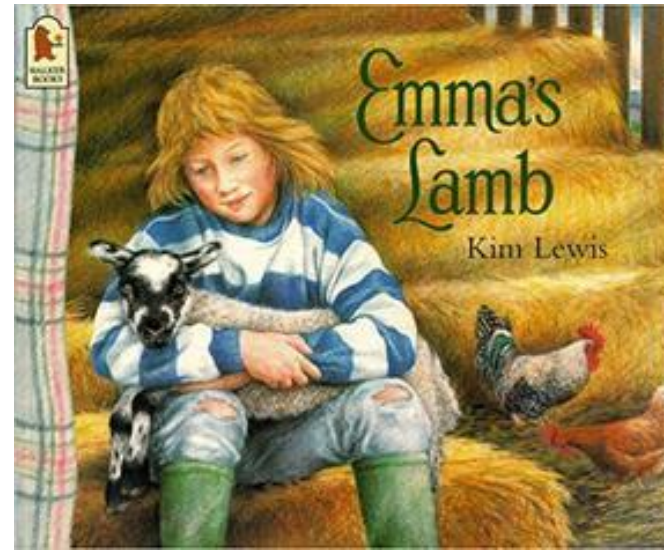
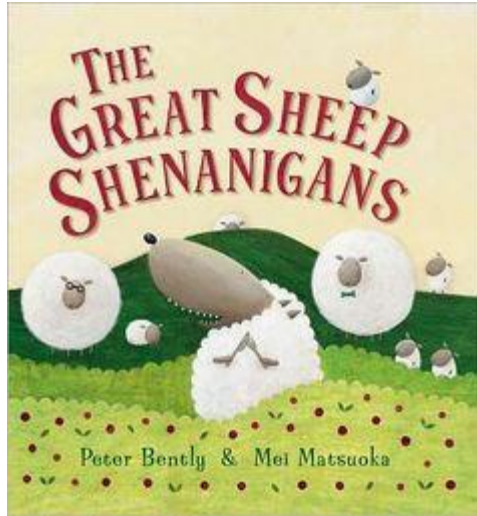
This mountain sheep, carved in serpentine, was probably made to serve its owner as a hunting fetish—to safeguard him, to bring him luck. It was found among a collection of fetishes from the Pueblo of Zuni, in New Mexico, but its character and material indicate an origin farther south; and in date, either the 14th or 15th centuries. It may have come to Zuni in trade. Or it may have been carried there in the possession of some migrant group, when the most southerly sedentary peoples of our Southwest abandoned their homes in the 15th century. Whatever its history, it is a work of art. Its long-gone creator strikingly achieved, with the simplest of tools, the same kind of feeling which we get from the work of some of our most modern sculptors. Presented to the Laboratory of Anthropology by Mrs. Edward S. Harkness. Reproduced slightly larger than actual size.

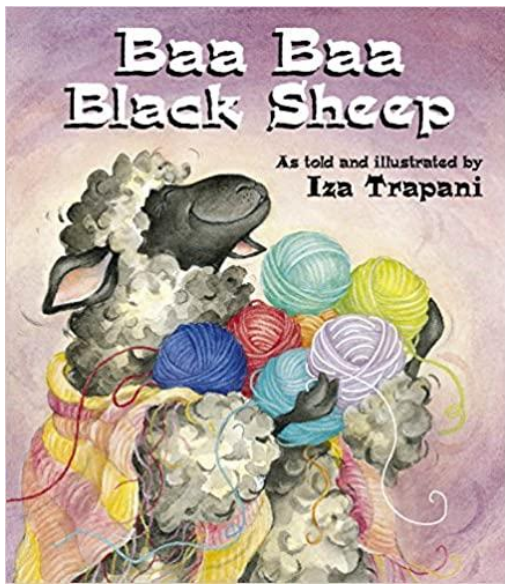
Picture Books



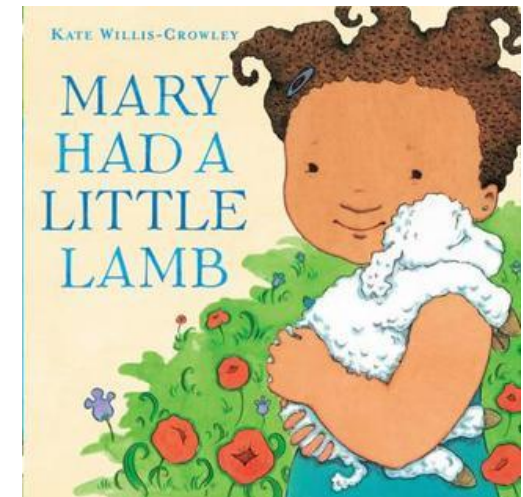
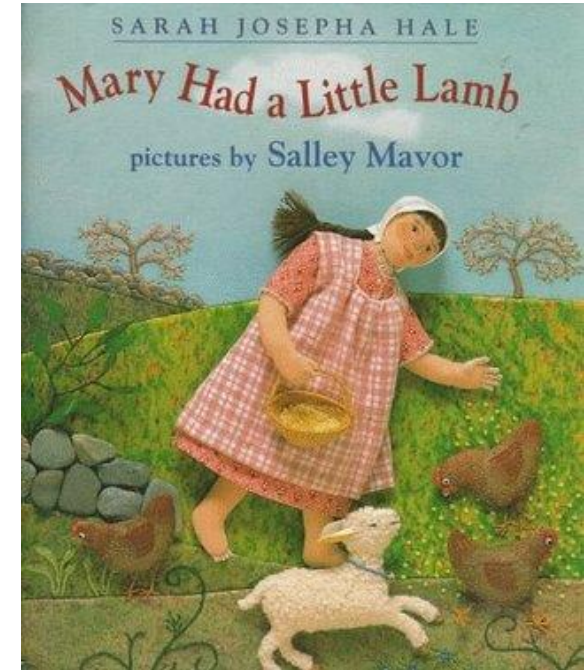
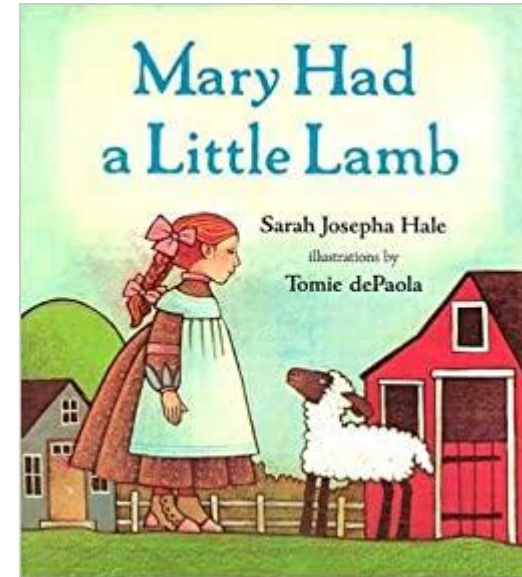
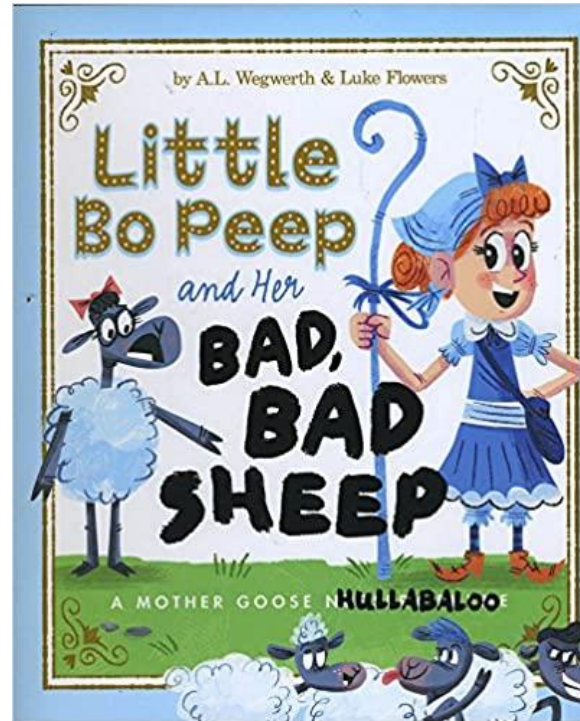
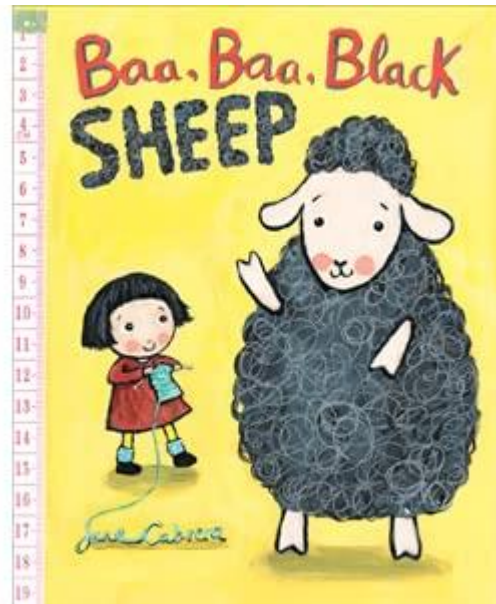
The saying “In like a lion, out like a lamb,” most likely started as a reference to astronomy, referencing the position of the constellations Leo (a lion) and Aries (a ram, or lamb) in the night sky. It evolved into a summation of March's changing weather as the seasons change from winter to spring in the Northern Hemisphere.





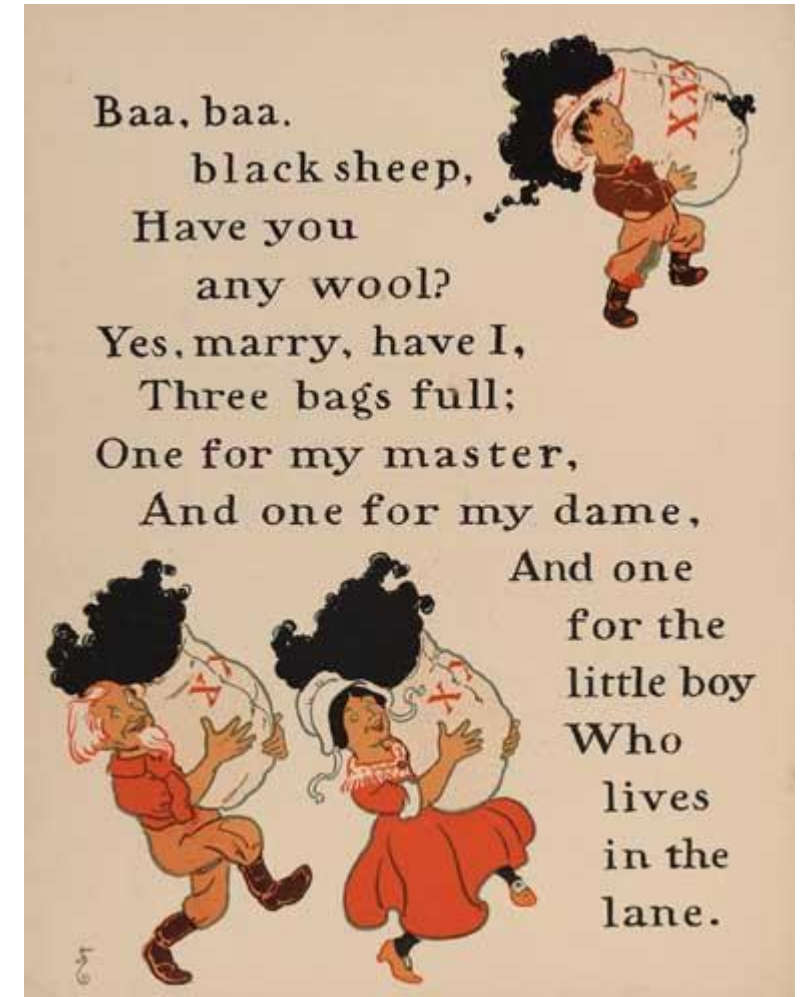
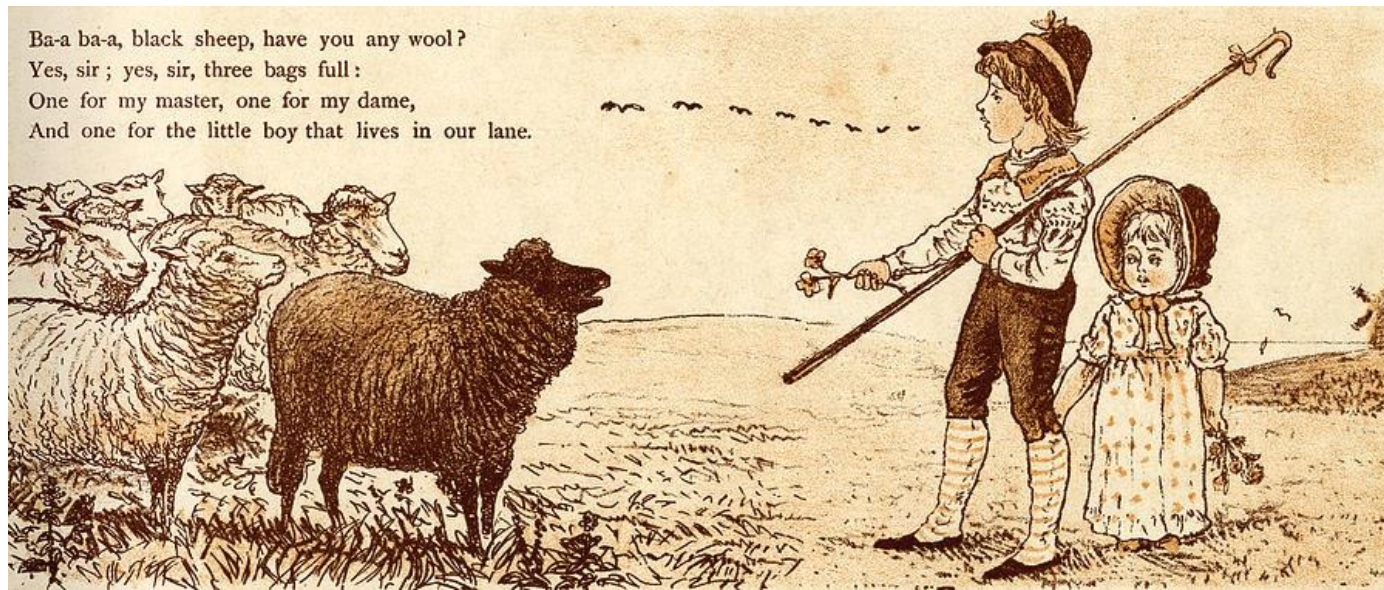
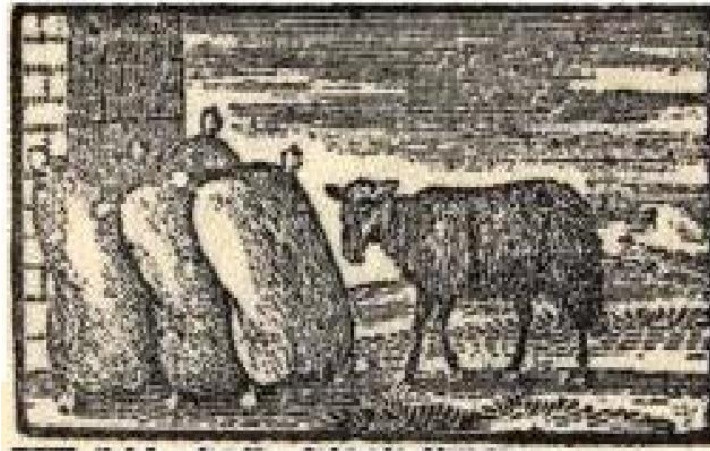


Baa Baa Black Sheep, Little Bo Beep and Mary Had Little Lamb are classic Nursery Rhymes

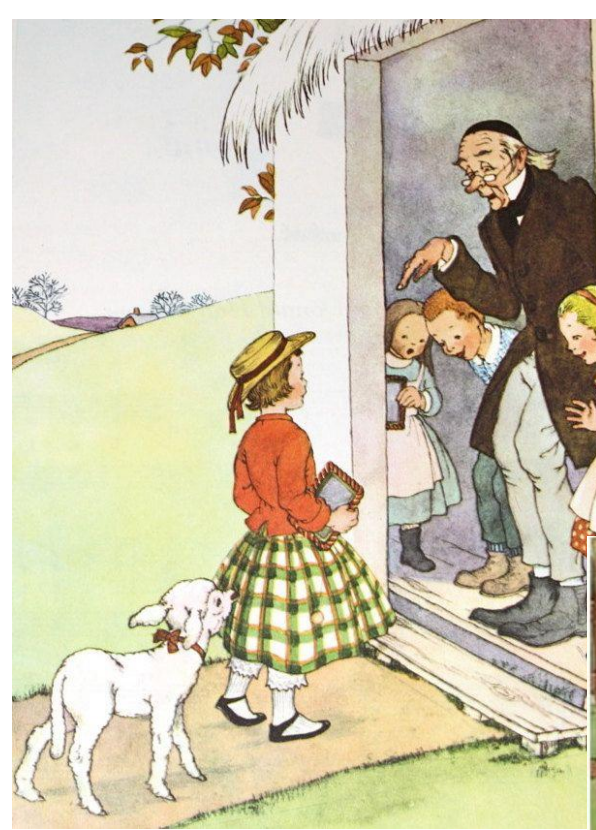




Classic illustrations for *Baa Baa Black Sheep* – from left to right: Dorothy Wheeler, 1916; Mary Evans, from *Mother Goose Melody*, 1765, William Wallace Denslow, 1901



Classic illustrations for *Mary Had a Little Lamb*, from left to right: Marjorie Torry, 1956; Clara M. Burd, early 20th century; *Little Folks Picture Book*, ca. 1875



If you visit the town of Sterling, Massachusetts today, you'll find a small copper statue of a woolly little creature meant to be a replica of the original lamb that followed 9-year-old Mary Sawyer to school in 1815.





LITTLE BO-PEEP.

Vintage *Little Bo Peep*



Little Bo-Peep
Has lost her sheep
And can't tell
where to find them
Leave them alone
And they'll come home
And bring their tails
behind them



LITTLE BO-PEEP

Little Bo-Peep has lost her sheep,
And can't tell where to find them;
Leave them alone, and they'll come home,
And bring their tails behind them.

Art Projects

Oddly enough the classic Sheep is made with cotton balls!
Can you think of other ways to create the wooly look of a sheep?



You can make a loom and weave with wool yarn.

You will need a piece of stiff cardboard about 12" long and 6-8" wide. Glue a strip of cardboard about 1/2" down at the top and bottom.

Measure every 1/4" and mark along the top and bottom.

Cut on the marks about 1/2" deep.

Warp your loom by wrapping string from the top to bottom – you will go all the way around the loom. You will need to knot the string at each end or securely tape it.



To weave (this is called the weft) you will take yarn and start from the left and go over/under/over/under until you reach the end.

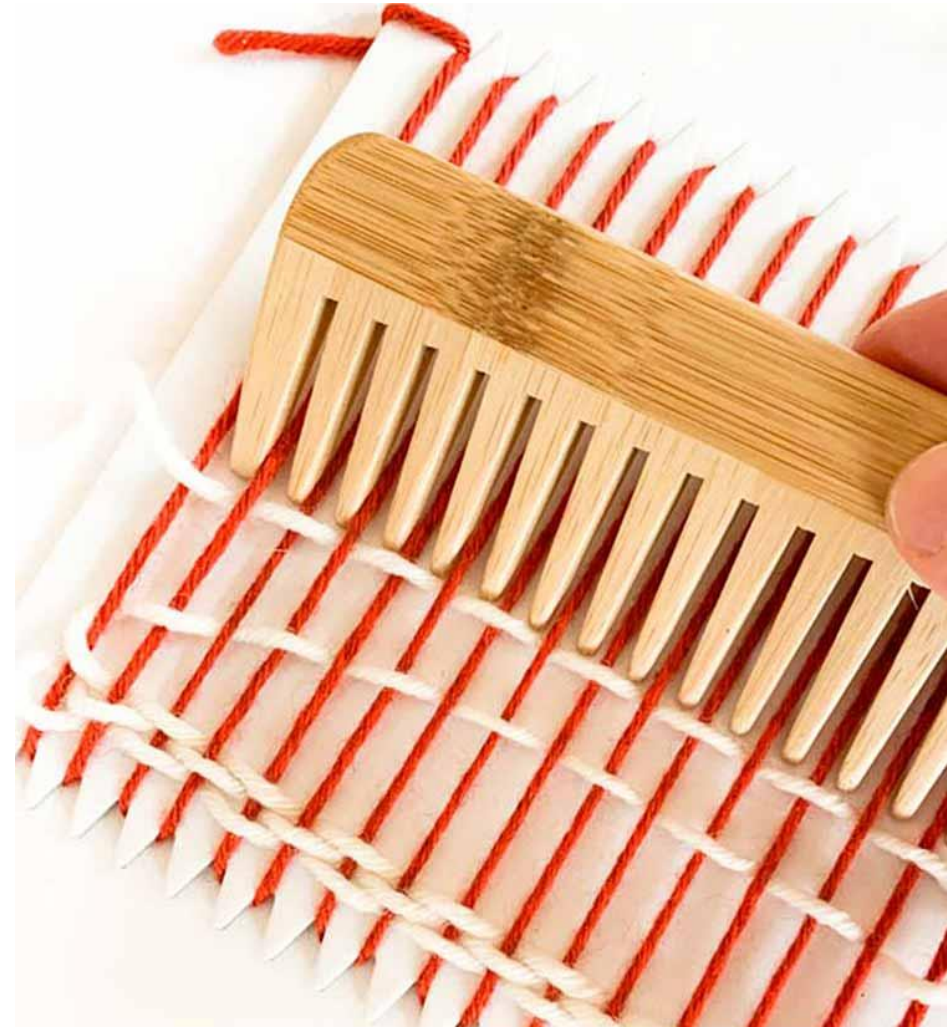
Your next row will start from the right – if your last string was under you will go over, if it was over you will go under.

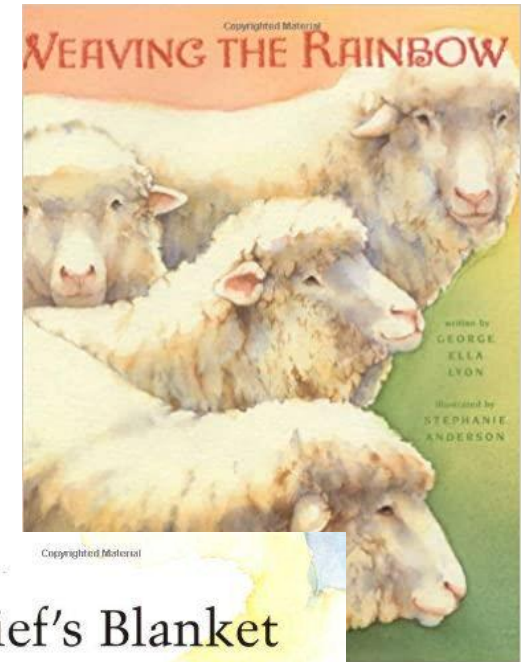
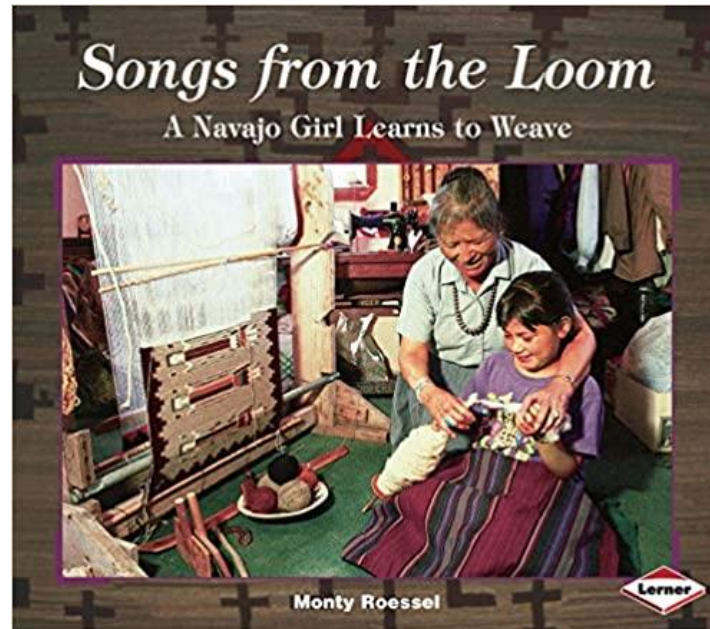
See the photo to the right

Repeat this until you fill in your loom. You can create stripes by changing the color of your yarn.

Hints: Don't pull your yarn tight at the ends of the rows or you will get an uneven blanket.

Use a plastic fork or comb to help push your weft close together (this is called a batten).

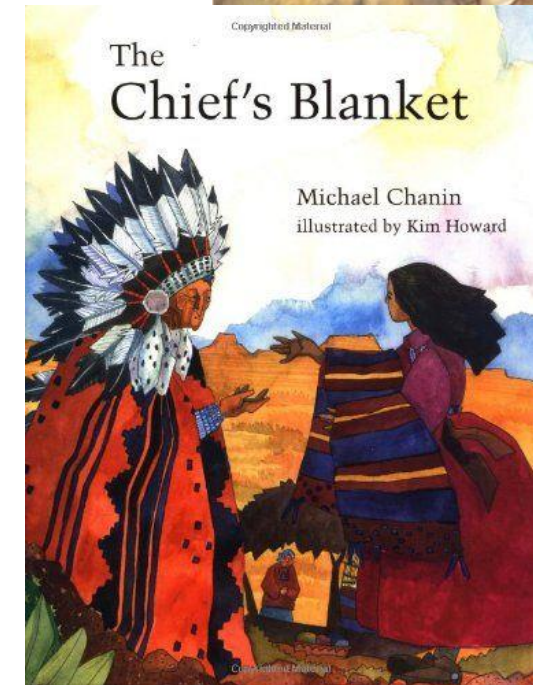
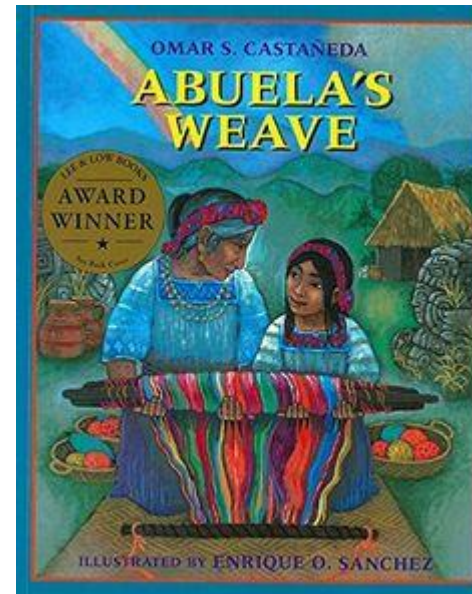




When you have finished, turn the loom over and cut the warp threads on the back of loom in the middle.

Pull the threads from the notches 2 or 3 at a time, and tie a knot as close to the yarn as possible.

Do this for all the threads and trim them to make the fringe even.



Origami

