

# More Hands-on... With Wool Spinning with a Wire Hook

## Wyoming Activity

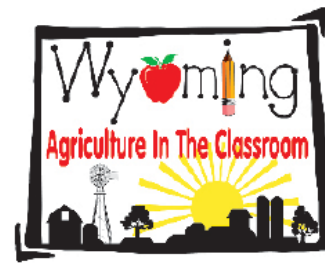
### Materials

- Yarn
- Wire hooks (tie wires for chain link fence, available at hardware stores, or bent coat hanger wires)
- Koolaid (or natural plants noted in lesson Dying Wool)
- Vinegar

### Background

Spinning yarn can be a hands-on way to show students how a fiber is twisted to be made into yarn or thread that will be woven to make fabric. This is a similar method people used for years before the invention of machines. A wool kit can be obtained from WAIC for \$7. This kit will make about 150-200 bracelets. Try this simple wire hook method for spinning wool. Cut a piece of wire about 7 or 8 inches long. Coat hanger wire works well. Next, with a pair of pliers, bend down one end to form a hook. Take a piece of carded wool approximately 1 inch wide and 10 inches long. Hook the wire into one end of the wool and begin twisting and drafting out the wool the same way you do when using a drop spindle. When you have spun the length of yarn, you may add more wool, if you have more than one person to help spin. When you reach your desired length of spun wool, you are ready to ply your yarn. If you remove the spun yarn from the spindle it will untwist and fray. If you ply your yarn, it will become softer and stay together. Plying is the twisting together of two single strands.

The easiest way to ply your yarn is to have someone hold the center of your yarn while you hold both ends. Bring your hands together and put both ends in one hand so there are two strands side by side. Have your helper let go and let the wool twist together. The double strand that you now have is plied yarn. It is stronger and won't unspin. Tie it around your wrist and make a bracelet.



**Time: 30 Minutes**

### **Grade:**

**1st Grade  
2nd Grade  
3rd Grade  
4th Grade**

### **Standards:**

#### **Social Studies:**

Culture/Culture Diversity

