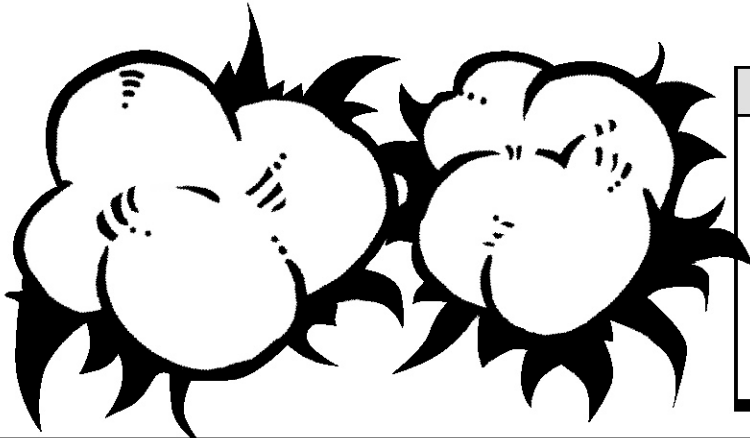


COTTON PICKIN' SCIENCE SKILLS



Materials

(for a group of four people)

- 5 cotton bolls
- 1 data sheet (see sample below)

DIRECTIONS

Procedure

1. Give each group of students a cotton boll and allow them to make observations. One student should serve as the recorder and write down any observations made by the group. Students should take the boll apart and observe how it looks, feels, smells, etc.
2. Discuss the observations made by the students. Determine which are really observations and which are inferences.
3. Tell students that cotton bolls grow in sections called locks. Ask students how many locks are in a boll.
4. Students can feel the hard seeds inside the lock. Ask

them how many seeds they feel in the lock.

5. Students should observe that the fibers of the cotton are like hairs attached to the seed coat. They then may conclude that the more seeds in a boll, the more fiber will be present.
6. Students will work as a group to fill out the data sheet on five bolls of cotton.
7. Students will answer the following questions:
 - What is the greatest number of locks per boll?
 - What is the least number of locks per boll?
 - What is the greatest number of seeds per boll?

- What is the least number of seeds per boll?
- What is the average number of seeds per boll?
- Is there a relationship between the number of seeds per boll and the number of locks per boll? Describe that relationship.
- If you were a cotton farmer, how many locks per boll would you like your cotton to have?
- Predict some factors that might determine the number of locks per boll.
- Design an experiment to test your prediction.

Sample Data Sheet

Boll Number	Number of Locks	Number of Seeds
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
Average		