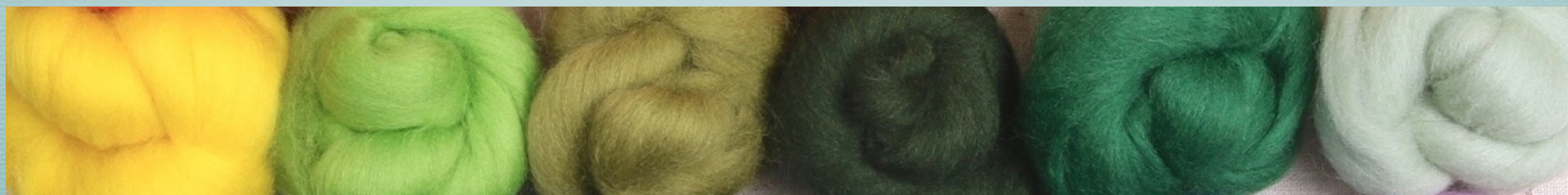


# Fiber in the Classroom

Fiber Identification & Wet Felting Projects





# Do Now

Number your paper 1-5. Match each fiber with its source by writing the correct letter next to each number.

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.







Cotton





Wool (Sheep)





Silk (Silk Worm)





Alpaca (Llama)





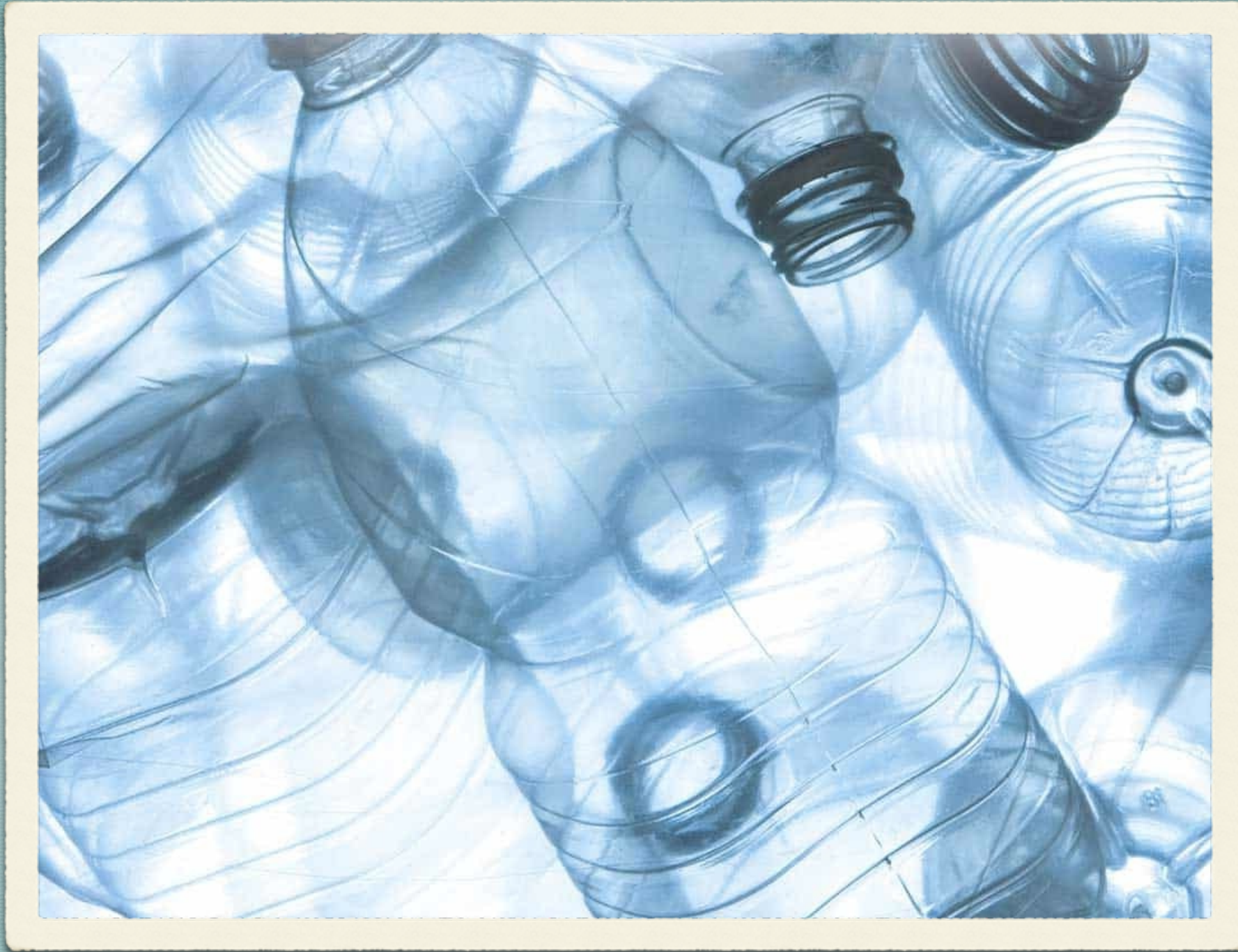
Bamboo





Acrylic





Polyester



# Types of Fiber

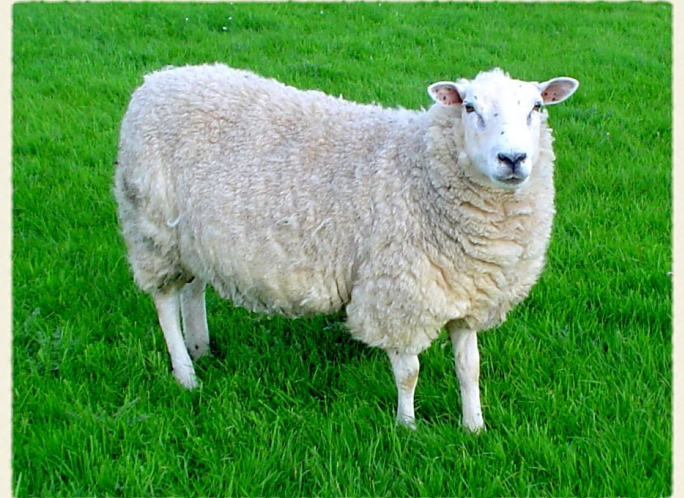
## Natural

Wool

Silk

Cotton

Linen





# Types of Fiber

## Synthetic

Acrylic  
Polyester  
Nylon  
Rayon







Coarse Wool

Fine Wool

Alpaca

Cashmere

Silk

Linen

Cotton

Polyester

# Fiber Textures



# Applying Scientific Method to Fiber Identification

FIBER	BURN CHARACTERISTICS	ODOR	ASH / RESIDUE
Wool, alpaca, llama, mohair, cashmere, angora	Flame sputters, self-extinguishes after flame removed	Burning hair	Black ash, crumbles
Silk	Steady orange flame, self-extinguishes after flame removed	Burning hair	Black soft bead, crushes easily
Cotton, rayon	Orange flame	Burning paper	Soft gray ash
Linen, jute, hemp	Orange flame	Burning paper	Soft black ash
Nylon	Flame has a blue base & orange tip	Celery	Hard gray bead
Polyester	Orange sputters with black, fiber melts	Sweet, fruity	Round, shiny black bead
Acrylic	Continues to burn with flame removed	Burning meat, acrid	Hard, black irregular bead



# Wet Felting

Felting is caused by

Heat  
and  
Agitation

Heat causes the scales to loosen and agitation causes them to lock together.

Felting can be done by wet felting or needle felting. Try wet felting beads.



# Supplies

- \* 100% Wool Roving (approx. 0.5 oz. per student)
  - No mixed content
  - No machine washable or “superwash”
- \* Yarn with high wool content, 75% at minimum
- \* Sushi Mat, one per station
- \* Netting or Mesh, size of sushi mat, one per station



# Household Items

- \* Large Towels to cover tables and clean messes
- \* Hand Towels, one per station
- \* Large Bowls
- \* Dish Soap
- \* Sponges
- \* Plastic Wrap, one long sheet (3x size of sushi mat)  
per station



# Wet Felted Painting

## Set Up

Lay out items in this order:

1. Large towel
2. Hand towel, portrait orientation
3. Sushi mat, so that it will roll up and down
4. Plastic Wrap
5. Netting, set aside

Fill bowls with hot water and add a small squirt of dish soap.



# Wet Felted Painting

1. Choose a background fiber color. Pull pieces off the roving and pull them thin like a spider web.
2. Place fiber on sushi mat with fibers going horizontally.
3. Pull another piece off, pull it thin and add it to sushi mat. Continue creating a thin layer, overlapping slightly until sushi mat is covered.
4. Add another layer, this time laying roving vertically.
5. Add a third layer if desired.



# Wet Felted Painting

6. Add roving in colors and shapes as desired to create your fiber painting.
7. Lay netting on top.
8. Saturate the sponge and press water into fiber starting from the center out. Saturate the fiber.
9. **VERY GENTLY!** Rub with an open palm in small circles.
10. Check for felting to begin by lifting netting and pulling up on the fibers to see if they are attaching to each other.



# Wet Felted Painting

11. Replace netting, wrap with plastic wrap, and fold up the edge of the hand towel. Roll sushi mat tightly to make a package.
12. Roll package very gently 25 times.
13. Open package, turn over and rewrap package. Roll another 25 times.
14. Open package, turn work 90 degrees, rewrap, and roll again.
15. Continue rolling 25 times at a time, increasing pressure, turning and rotating each time. The felting process will cause work to shrink in the direction of rolling. Continue process until fibers are well adhered to each other and felt becomes firm.



# Project Ideas

**Middle/High School**

Wet Felted Paintings

Add embroidery techniques

Impressionism

Expressionism

One station per student





# Project Ideas

## **Elementary School**

Wet Felted Painting cut  
into strips for bookmarks

Wet Felted Beads

One station per 4 students





# Project Ideas

## **Early Elementary**

Wet Felted Rocks

One station per 4  
students

