

# Alpacas

Heather Hammonds



PM

## Alpacas

Level 20

Running Words 561 Text Type Information Report

Curriculum Areas English (Literacy, Literature, Language); Science (Biological Sciences)

### Retelling to Encourage Critical Thinking About the Content

Ask each student to retell the information report in their own words.  
Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

### Questions to Reinforce Meaning and Stimulate Discussion

#### Literal

- 1 Where were alpacas first kept as farm animals?
- 2 What are the two different kinds of alpaca fleece?
- 3 What is a baby alpaca called?

#### Inferential

- 4 Why are alpacas described as 'helpful' farm animals?
- 5 Why are some other animals scared away when an alpaca squeals?
- 6 Why do the fields where alpacas live have strong fences?
- 7 Why does an alpaca need to stay still while it is being shorn?
- 8 Why is alpaca fleece put inside quilts?

#### Applied Knowledge

- 9 What other animals can be taken to shows and judged?
- 10 What might alpacas do in an obstacle course?

### Links with Other PM Guided Reading Books

Level 20	Information Report	<i>Horses</i>
Level 20	Information Report	<i>Sheep</i>
Level 20	Information Report	<i>Goats</i>
Level 20	Information Report	<i>Cattle</i>
Level 20	Information Report	<i>Chickens</i>



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# Alpacas

Alpacas are farm animals that grow a thick coat, called a fleece.

Their soft, warm fleece can be made into **yarn**.  
The yarn is used for things like clothes and rugs.

Alpacas have a long neck, large eyes and pointed ears.  
They have two large toes on each foot.



Alpacas were first kept as farm animals in South America.

Now they live on farms all around the world.

Some alpacas grow a thick, fluffy fleece.

Other alpacas grow a longer fleece that hangs down each side of their body.





## A Helpful Farm Animal

Alpacas often live in a herd, on an alpaca farm. Sometimes, they live with sheep and goats. Alpacas can help keep sheep and goats safe from other animals like foxes. Alpacas will squeal at the animals and chase them away!



Alpacas and sheep live together in this herd.



Most alpacas live on farms with strong fences and a shed for shelter.

The alpacas go into their shed during hot weather, or on cold, windy days.

Alpacas eat fresh grass and hay.

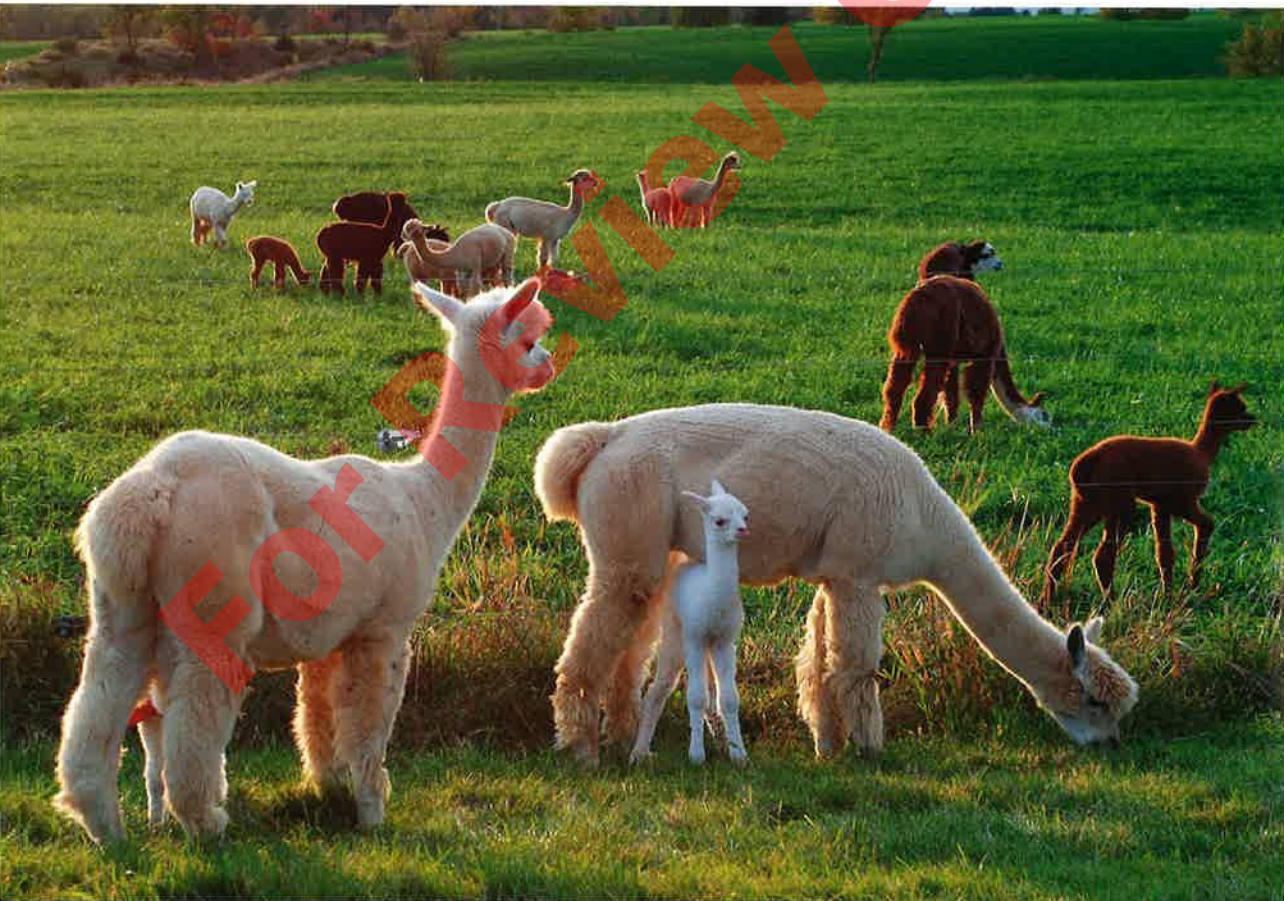
They drink lots of fresh water, too.



## Baby Alpacas

Baby alpacas are called crias (say: *cree-yas*).  
Most crias are born during the day.

Other alpacas in the herd sometimes stay  
with the mother while her cria is born.





Little crias can sit up soon after they are born.  
Then they stand up on wobbly legs.  
They soon get a drink of milk from their mother.  
Crias learn to eat grass and hay as they grow older.  
They drink milk from their mother for about six months.

