

COTTON TO CLOTHING



WHERE
MATERIALS
COME FROM



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Do you wear cotton clothing? Cotton is a material used in many things. We use these things every day. But what is cotton? Where does it come from?

What Is Cotton?

Cotton is a soft, fluffy **fiber** found in nature. It grows on plants in many countries around the world. People use cotton fibers to make fabric.





Most cotton fabric is used to make clothing. Cotton clothing is strong and comfortable to wear. People also use cotton to make towels, blankets, curtains, and many other products.

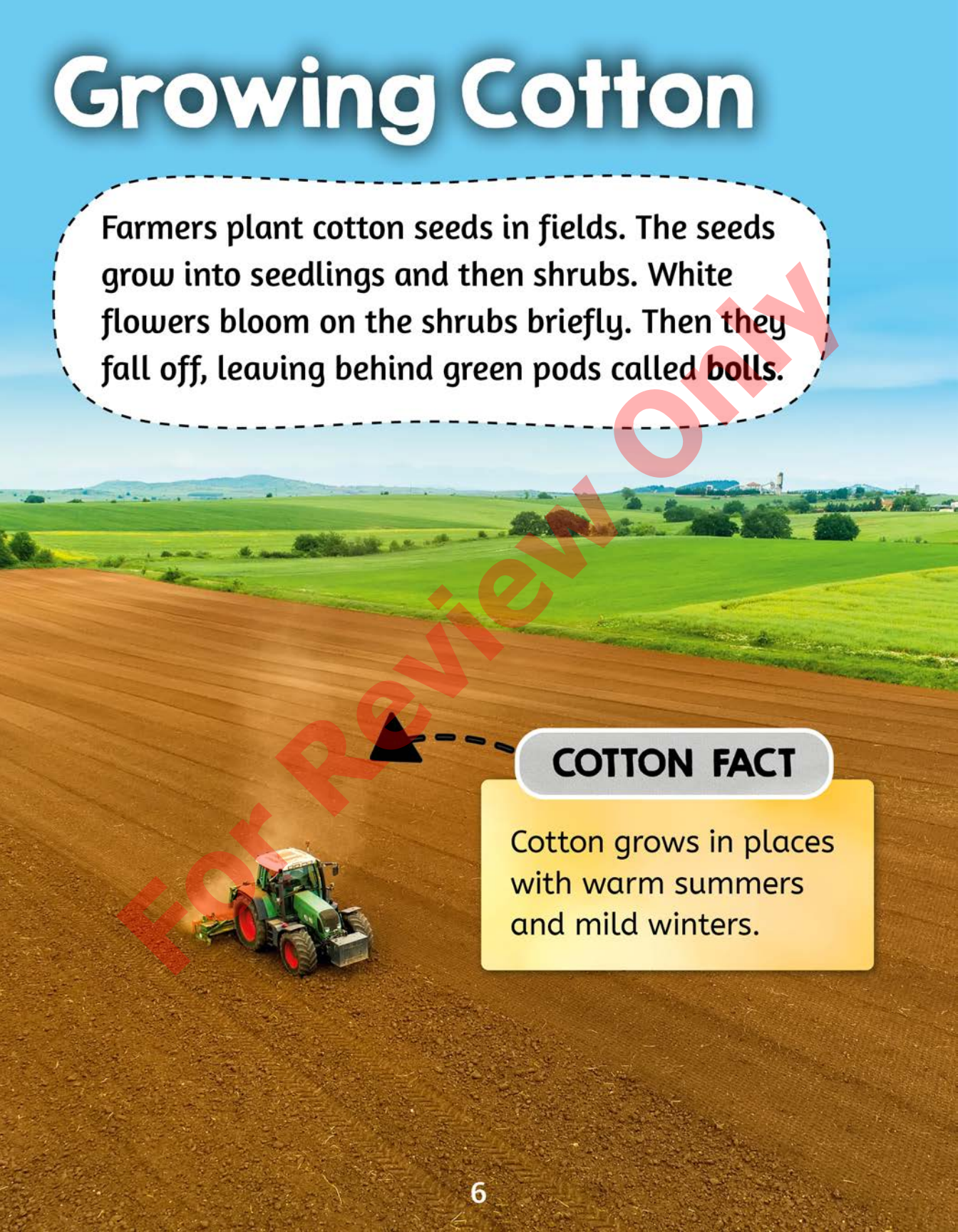


COTTON FACT

About half of all fabrics are made from cotton.

Growing Cotton

Farmers plant cotton seeds in fields. The seeds grow into seedlings and then shrubs. White flowers bloom on the shrubs briefly. Then they fall off, leaving behind green pods called **bolls**.



COTTON FACT

Cotton grows in places with warm summers and mild winters.

Inside each boll, there are 20 to 40 cotton seeds and thousands of fibers. The fibers grow long and thick. About five months after planting, the bolls split open and fluffy cotton bursts out.



Harvesting Cotton

Farmers harvest cotton when it is ripe and ready to pick. In some places, workers harvest cotton by hand. They use their fingers to pull and twist the cotton out of the bolls.

WONDER WORD:
HARVEST

To harvest means to
pick and collect a crop
when it is fully grown.





Other farmers use big machines to pull cotton quickly from plants. Then they pack the cotton into tight bales so it can be stored or shipped.

