

10 COTTON FACTS FOR LITTLE PEOPLE WITH INQUISITIVE MINDS

Over half of our clothes in the UK are made from cotton, but do we know where and how they were made?

7,000 years!

1. Cotton has been around for a very long time. It has been used by people for over

2. Cotton is a plant, grown in over **85 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD**. The top countries for growing cotton are China, India, the United States and Pakistan.

3. Cotton is the **WORLD'S LARGEST**  non-food crop.


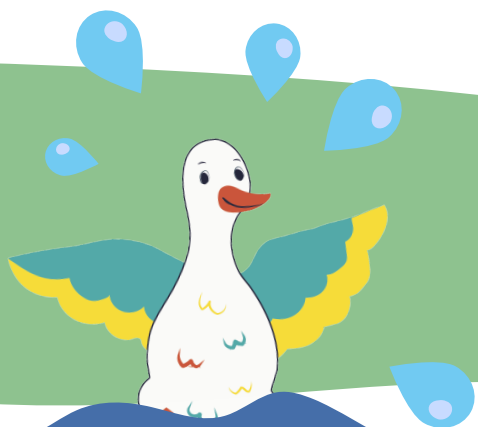
4. It takes around **6 MONTHS** for a planted cotton seed to be ready to harvest.

5. Cotton crops grow 3 to 6 feet (1 to 2 meters) high. In the wild cotton plants grow much higher, up to 20 feet (6 metres). **THAT'S AS BIG AS A TWO STOREY HOUSE!** 

6. Cotton isn't just used for clothing. It's also used to make things like tents, bank notes, fishing nets and bandages. 

7. When paper gets wet it breaks and dissolves, silk loses its strength and wool shrinks, **COTTON ON THE OTHER HAND GETS STRONGER WHEN WET**. That's why it's such a good material for bath towels. 

8. Did you know we can eat cotton? Cottonseed oil can be found in things like margarine, vegetable oil and mayonnaise. 

9. Growing cotton can use a lot of water. It takes up to 2,700 litres of water to create one cotton t-shirt. That's enough water for one person to drink for 900 days!  

10. **THANKFULLY** the production of organic cotton uses less water by avoiding nasty chemicals, using healthy soil and farming more responsibly.

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