

Name:

Class:

Date:

## Activity 11.3A: Wool Evaluation

### Materials Needed

- Minimum of four grease wool (raw) fleeces or samples

### Instructions

You will be examining four fleeces to determine overall wool quality. Write your rankings on the worksheet provided. Once you have ranked the fleeces individually in each category, rank the overall top fleece and provide justification for your choice.

### Fleece Ranking by Categories

Category	Fleece #1	Fleece #2	Fleece #3	Fleece #4
<b>Volume</b>	Answer:	Answer:	Answer:	Answer:
<b>Fineness</b>	Answer:	Answer:	Answer:	Answer:
<b>Crimp</b>	Answer:	Answer:	Answer:	Answer:
<b>Staple</b>	Answer:	Answer:	Answer:	Answer:
<b>Cleanliness</b>	Answer:	Answer:	Answer:	Answer:
<b>Soundness</b>	Answer:	Answer:	Answer:	Answer:

1. Examine the fleeces and determine which has the most overall *volume* (amount of wool). Rank each of the fleeces according to its volume (1 = the fleece with the most volume).
  - A. *Fineness* is the thickness of each individual wool fiber (measured in microns). This measurement will determine the grade of the wool. Finer wool (thinner fibers) is typically more desirable and worth more money. Rank each of the fleeces according to the fineness of the fibers (1 = the fleece with the finest [thinnest] fibers).
  - B. *Crimp* is the number of natural waves in the wool fibers. Finer wool typically has more crimp per inch than coarser wool. Rank each of the fleeces according to its crimp (1 = the fleece with the most waves per inch).
  - C. *Staple* is the length of an unstretched lock (small natural clump) of wool. Wool that is coarser typically has a longer staple than fine wool. Uniform staple length is desirable. Rank each of the fleeces according to its volume (1 = the fleece with the longest staple).

- D. *Clean wool* is more valuable than dirty wool. Pay close attention to wool with vegetable matter (grass, seeds, etc.) and stained portions of wool. Rank the fleeces according to which fleece you think has the most pounds of clean wool (1 = the fleece that is the cleanest).
- E. Poor nutrition, environmental conditions, or genetics can lead to wool that is fragile or breaks easily. Wool that has strong fibers is said to be *sound*. Rank each of the fleeces according to its fiber strength (1 = the fleece with the strongest fibers).

### Overall Ranking

1. Determining the overall quality of a fleece requires examining the fleece in many different respects. Using your evaluations of the four fleeces, rank the four fleeces overall. Include a justification of why you chose each fleece for its overall ranking.

#### Fleece #1

Overall Rank

Answer:

Justification

Answer:

#### Fleece #2

Overall Rank

Answer:

Justification

Answer:

#### Fleece #3

Overall Rank

Answer:

Justification

Answer:

**Fleece #4**

Overall Rank

Answer:

Justification

Answer: