



Clover Kid Bottle Lamb



UNL Clover Kid Team

Clover Kid Corner Website (<http://child.unl.edu/cloverkid>)

Before You Get Started:

Information for Parents

- The Clover Kid Bottle Lamb exhibit is accepted by most county fairs as part of the “Exploring Farm Animals” project. Check with your local Extension Office for specific rules & requirements.
- Most lambs are born in February & March. Some sheep owners take care of orphans in the early stages and sell them after they are bottle-trained, about one month old. Talk to sheep owners in your area in January. Tell them you are willing to care for an orphaned bottle lamb.
- If your child will have a hard time parting with their lamb, seek out a ewe lamb. They can be sold or retained as a breeding ewe.

When You Finish This You Will Have Helped Your Child:

- Learn how to care for a bottle lamb and become responsible for another living thing, using math and measuring skills to prepare the lamb’s feedings.
- Identify some of the basic parts of a sheep, giving your child an appreciation for science.
- Begin to learn the basics of training an animal, thereby learning discipline.
- Learn how to properly wash and groom a lamb for show, learning pride in their work.
- Show his or her project animal at the fair in a public exhibition, giving your child the experience of public speaking and appearing in front of an audience.

Connections to State Science Standards

SC2.3.1.a Children will differentiate between living and nonliving things

SC2.3.1.b Children will identify the basic needs of living things (food, water, air, space, shelter)

SC2.3.1.c Children will identify external parts of plants and animals

SC2.3.2.b Children will describe how living things change as they grow

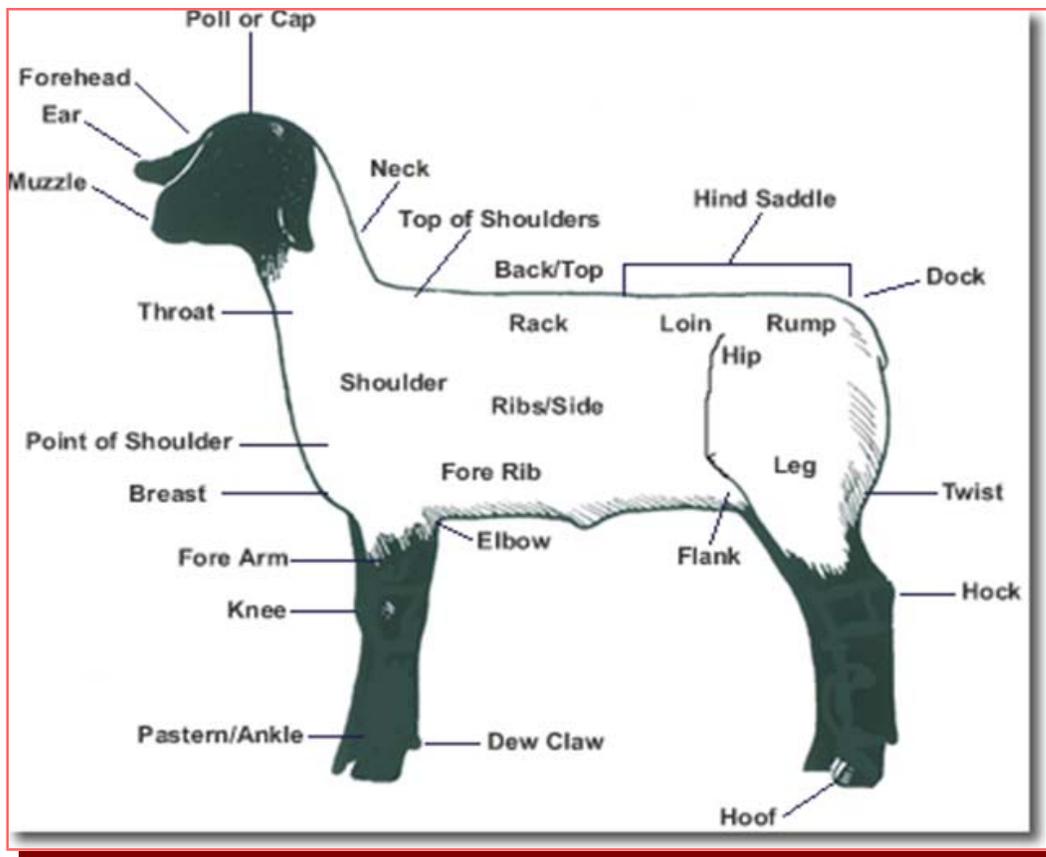
FACTS:

- A baby sheep is called a lamb. (“lam”)
- A baby boy sheep is called a ram lamb. (“ram lam”)
- A baby girl sheep is called a ewe lamb. (“you lam”)
- A ram lamb that has been neutered is called a whether. (“weh-thur”)
- All the sheep on a farm are called a “flock “ of sheep.
- Sheep grow wool which can be cut (sheared) and spun into yarn. This yarn is woven into warm clothes for us to wear.



PARTS OF A SHEEP

Knowing the parts of a sheep gives you a common language when talking with others about sheep and lambs. It is important to know the parts of your sheep when reporting a problem to your vet, talking with a sheep breeder, or reading about sheep. You will also need to know these parts when showing your lamb at the fair.



For a simple cut and paste activity, checkout the following link: <http://teachmevisually.blogspot.com/>

What is life like for a baby lamb?

When baby lambs are born, they are really wet and slimy. The ewe will lick the slime off the lamb which helps to dry it off and start its circulation. Baby lambs usually are able to stand and nurse less than one-half hour after being born. Baby lambs nurse milk from the ewe's udder. They instinctively know how to find the udder. Even if they are born outside in the cold, a lamb can stay warm if its mother dries him off and allows him to nurse warm milk soon after birth.

The first milk a lamb nurses is called colostrum. It is very important that a lamb gets colostrum to build its immunity against diseases. At about five days of age, the lamb will nibble on the hay and grain that the ewe is eating. By pretending to be a big sheep and mimicking their mother, they learn to eat solid foods. They will continue to nurse until their mother weans them or the rancher weans them by separating them from the ewes.



Before weaning, the rancher will feed the lambs in a “creep feeder” so that the lambs will learn to eat on their own. A “creep feeder” is a feed bunk in a small pen that has a gate that only the lambs can crawl through. It is designed to help the lambs get away from the big sheep. This will help the lambs adjust to eating without momma and ready for weaning. The rancher also makes sure the lambs have plenty of fresh water to drink.



What life is like for an orphan lamb?

There are several situations when a lamb might become an orphan. If the ewe has several lambs or leaves one lamb before it gets licked off and nurses to walk to another spot to give birth to a second or third lamb, the first lamb can get forgotten by its ewe and it may become an orphan. In other situations, the ewe may not produce milk, become ill or even die, leaving the lambs to be orphans.

In these situations, the rancher must be very alert and tend to the newborn lamb quickly. He will dry the lamb with a towel and perhaps put it under a heat lamp to keep it warm. However, lambs are tolerant of cool weather once they are no-longer chilled and will do better in a 50-60 degree environment versus an 80-90 degree environment. If the lamb is too weak to suck a bottle, the rancher may tube the lamb. To do this he will put a small flexible rubber tube that is attached to a syringe down the lamb's throat into his stomach with colostrum that he has collected and saved from another ewe or cow. If there is no colostrum available, the rancher can give the orphan artificial colostrum that comes in a commercially-produced syringe. Lambs need 2-4 ounces of colostrum every 3-4 hours for their first 24 hours of life. Lambs that do not get colostrum will not thrive nor be a good project.

The lamb will need to be raised artificially on milk replacer and is officially a "bottle lamb"! The milk replacer should be specifically formulated and labeled for lambs. Other milk replacers do not have enough fat content for lambs and they will not thrive. It frequently takes several feedings to train the lamb to the bottle. To assist in training, start with a hungry lamb, five to six hours since its last feeding. It may be necessary to tube the lamb with milk replacer if it is not strong enough to nurse. Lambs will consume around 20 percent of their body weight in milk per day. It will be beneficial to weigh the lamb to know how much to give. This would equate to about 38 ounces per day for a 12-pound lamb (12 pounds x 16 ounces per pound x .20 = 38 ounces) or 23 ounces per day for a 7-pound lamb (newborn small triplet). This amount should be divided according to how many times the lamb will be fed per day. One- to two-day-old lambs should be fed a minimum of four times a day, while older lambs can be fed only twice. Initially, the milk should be fed luke-warm to stimulate intake. A warm, dry pen is important for the health of artificially reared lambs. Another important aspect of bottle feeding is to get the lambs started on dry feed and water as soon as possible. Have fresh lamb creep feed (20 percent protein) available to these lambs at one week of age.



Feeding Your Bottle Lamb



You will need to purchase a lamb nipple. Three different styles are shown. They range in price from \$1 each to \$4 each. The black nipples smell like rubber and can be too big for a small weak lamb. If you have trouble getting an orphan to suck the black nipple, you might try one of the others. They are made of a softer material (isoprene or pliable latex) and are more like a ewe's teat. If you buy the Controlled flow nipple (clear) or the Pritchard Nipple (red and yellow), you can cut the teat long-ways, instead of across the top, which will prevent leaking when the bottle

is placed in an inverted position. Mark the side of the nipple with a black marker and teach your Clover Kid to always keep that mark pointed up, so the vent hole will be able to get air.

Any of these nipples will work on a plastic pop or water bottle. Be sure to cut the plastic ring off the top of the pop bottle so the screw on nipple will fit properly without leaking.

Children by nature will want to hold the bottle in an upright position, so that the milk stays in. They have to be taught to tip the bottle so the milk flows toward the nipple. Then they forget to tip it back up when the lamb stops sucking! Don't worry, it won't be long until your Clover Kid and their lamb will get the hang of it, and then the fun begins!

Don't make a large opening in any of the nipples shown until your lamb is over three weeks old. This sucking motion keeps his digestive system moving and makes him stronger. Limiting the milk flow at first also prevents the lamb from inhaling milk into his lungs causing pneumonia.



Purchasing Milk Replacer

Do not be tempted to purchase Calf Milk Replacer to feed your orphan lambs. Calf Milk Replacer is cheaper, but does not have the necessary amount of protein and fat that orphan lambs require to be healthy.

Ultimately, you will have wasted the money spent on the Calf Milk Replacer, because you will have an orphan lamb which will not grow well and will be susceptible to disease.

Mixing and Feeding Lamb Milk Replacer

If at all possible, your bottle lamb should be allowed to nurse its mother for at least 24 hours to receive colostrum which is the first milk a ewe produces immediately after parturition (giving birth). Colostrum contains antibodies from the mother which help to "jumpstart" the lamb's immune system. It is high in vitamin A and proteins, low in fat, and has a mild laxative effect which helps the lamb expel its first stool, called meconium.

Mix the milk replacer according to the label directions. Some conversions may be necessary. Remember a ml. (milliliter) is the same as a cc (cubic centimeter). One fluid ounce (oz.) equals 29.5 cc's (if you have a 30 cc syringe).

Feeding Schedule

Birth to 24 hours – Colostrum. If possible, it is best to get at least two cups of colostrum into the lamb. Time spent now on giving colostrum will be valuable later. If your lamb was orphaned at birth, it is best to purchase artificial colostrum from a farm supply store or contact a local sheep breeder to see if they have some in storage. You will need about two cups of colostrum per lamb.

24 hours to 3 days – Feed 1/3 cup (a tad under 30 ccs) 4 to 6 times a day at 4 hour intervals.

4 days to 2 weeks – Decrease the number of feedings and increase the amount fed at each feeding.

2 weeks – One (1) cup of reconstituted milk replacer three times per day.

2 weeks to weaning – Feed twice daily in gradually increased quantity. Be sure not to feed your lamb so much that it gets a pot belly. This is not healthy for the lamb. It is better to leave it a little hungry, than over-full!

Care of Your Lamb Nipple and Bottle

Rinse the bottle with warm water and store inverted, so that milk does not dry in the bottle and be allowed to spoil. Rinse the nipple with warm water and store so that it will drain and dry. Do not use Clorox to disinfect and do not boil nipples in hot water. The heat will degrade the nipple.



Temporary Warm Box for Newborn Bottle Lambs

You can build a temporary container for newborns to keep them inside until the weather warms and you have an outdoor space for your lambs. This will be extra fun for your Clover Kid as they will be able to interact with the lambs in between feedings! Any box will do, but the bigger and taller the better. Fold up the flaps and tape to give you extra height. Put a thick layer of plastic in the bottom of the box, followed by kitty litter and at least three inches of large wood shavings. The kitty litter will control the moisture and odor. Do not be tempted to use Cedar Shavings as they will cause respiratory distress to

the lambs. When you notice the odor, (in about two weeks if you have one lamb), it's time to replace the box.

Barn Shelter for Bottle Lambs

If you have a building that you can outfit for your lamb, you can put down shavings and hang a heat lamp from a support in the center of your pen if the temperature hovers around zero. Lambs can tolerate fairly cold weather and will play out in the snow at less than a week old if allowed. Make sure the heat lamp is plugged directly into an outlet and that it hangs at least four feet above your lamb's head. You don't want your lamb to get too warm, it won't be able to handle the cold later. You can use straw or shavings for bedding, but again, be extra careful of how you place the heat lamp. Make sure it is out of reach of your Clover Kid as well!



YOUTUBE VIDEOS

The following are several resources you and your Clover Kid could explore to learn more about Sheep and Bottle Lambs!

What Does a Sheep Sound Like?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8fp8ZcYdG4>

Lambs Play

“Ring Around the Round Bale”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OG1ibyBBj60>

Hungry Bottle Lambs

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJGzxEf3YQk>

How to Pick a Nice Show Lamb

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qMI7ocF34w>



WEBLINKS for Information

Rearing Orphan Lambs

<http://archive.agric.wa.gov.au/>

Search for “Rearing Orphan Lambs” (It is a pdf file—No. 78 published in April 2006)

Raising Bum Lambs on a Bottle

http://www.awrittenword.com/barbados/info/articles/bummer_lamb.htm

Raising Lambs and Kids (Baby Goats) Artificially

<http://www.sheepandgoat.com/articles/artificialfeeding.html>

Bottle Lamb videos: There are several on the internet. Try “googling” (bottle lamb, care). It will also be fun to “google” (bottle lamb, images) and go through the pictures with your child!

“LET’S LEARN ABOUT SHEEP”

An interactive booklet complete with sheep wool, wool samples, feed and hay pictures, and other educational activities designed for young sheep enthusiasts!

Contact Melissa Evans at the UNL Extension Office in Garden County at mevans27@unl.edu or 308-726-5628 for a copy.

Getting Your Bottle Lamb Ready For Fair

Please share this to your Clover Kid.

WASHING AND PREPARING YOUR LAMB FOR SHOW

You will need to wash and clean your lamb before the fair. Lambs don't like to get wet. Their wool soaks up and holds a lot of water which makes them feel "weighed down", like you do when you have your "snow gear" on!

When it is really hot outside, your lamb will enjoy a cool bath or "shower" from a garden hose. You will want to use a small amount of animal shampoo or a liquid detergent for wool clothes to help make suds. It is fun to run your fingers through the wool with the shampoo to work it into the wool, getting your lamb clean! Be sure to rinse all the shampoo out of your lamb. Do not get water in his ears. It could make your lamb catch a cold.

Some counties don't require bottle lambs be sheared for the Clover Kid Show. Be sure and ask your County Extension Office this question. The main thing is to make sure your lamb doesn't have any dirt or manure in its wool and that his nose and ears are clean. You can use a moist towel or rag to clean out his ears and nose and wipe the "sleepers" out of the corners of his eyes.



SHOWING YOUR LAMB AT THE FAIR

If you plan to show your lamb at the county fair, you have to train it to walk beside you with it on a halter and lead rope or under your control. Be sure and check your local rules to know what is required for your county fair. Most county fairs let Clover Kids show their Bottle Lambs with a halter.

The first step in training your lamb is to get it tame. If you are nice to your lamb while feeding them, they will become tame very easily and will probably follow you without a halter. But during the county fair, they might get scared and run away, so it's best to keep them on a halter.

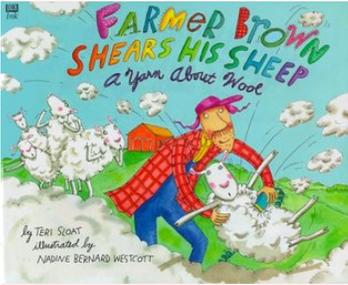
To teach your lamb to lead without a halter, stand beside your lamb and put your left hand under its neck and your right hand on the back of its tail. As you step forward, urge your lamb to come with you by tickling its tail. It might take some practice, but gradually your lamb will walk beside you and you can lift your right hand up to beside your waist. To stop your lamb, raise his nose up with your left hand.

You will want to begin working with your lamb to get him to stand square on his feet. Standing square means having his front feet under his shoulders and his back feet under his rump. You can hold his head with your left hand and move his feet with your right hand or even your right foot!

Don't forget to watch the judge during your class and smile! When he asks you questions, be sure to talk into the microphone so the audience can hear you! As a Clover Kid, you will receive a participation ribbon at the fair.



Books About Sheep & Lambs to Read with Your Child



Farmer Brown Shears His Sheep, By Teri Sloat

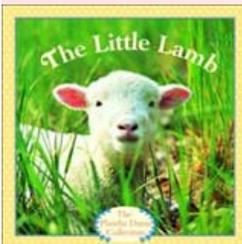
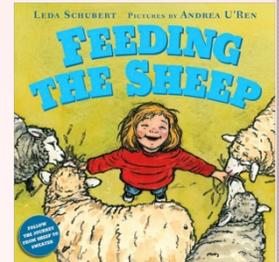
"Farmer Brown was shearing sheep, piling up a snowy heap of wool that filled his shed, knee-deep..." But when the temperature drops, his shivering sheep see all their wool in sacks--and "BAAA!" they cry. "WE WANT IT BACK!" Young listeners will enjoy chiming in on this hilarious read-aloud as Farmer Brown's sheep track down their wool.

(For Children, 3-8 Years Old)

Feeding The Sheep, by Leda Schubert.

Day to day, season to season, Mom tends the family's small flock of sheep, and then shears and washes, cards and dyes, spins and knits. Every step of the way, her little girl watches and asks, "What are you doing?" As playful as it is informative, this rambunctious read-aloud features a mother and daughter making a game of their warm and wooly enterprise.

(For Children, 3-6 Years Old)



The Little Lamb, by Judy Dunn, Illustrated by Phoebe Dunn.

This is the story of a little girl who takes care of a baby lamb until it is old enough to return to the flock.

(For Children, 3-7 Years old)

Questions????

At the county fair, your child may be asked these questions by the judge during the Clover Kid Bottle Lamb Class. It will be beneficial to ask your child these questions before they appear in the show ring, in front of a crowd, and behind the microphone talking to the judge!

- What kind of animal do you have?
- Where did you get your lamb?
- Where does your lamb live?
- Do you have a pen for your lamb?
- What do you feed your lamb?
- Does your lamb have a name?
- Who helps you care for your lamb?
- How long have you cared for your lamb?
- How often do you feed your lamb?
- How often do you give water to your lamb?
- What is your favorite thing about caring for a lamb?

Let's Sing a Song—"Mary Had a Little Lamb"

Google "Mary Had a Little Lamb Lyrics" to watch a cartoon video of this tune.

Or go to: <http://www.bing.com/videos/search?>

[q=mary+had+a+little+lamb+lyrics&qvvt=mary+had+a+little+lamb+lyrics&form=VDRE&first=1#view=detail&mid=74DD51C9688490E8C2FC74DD51C9688490E8C2FC](http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=mary+had+a+little+lamb+lyrics&qvvt=mary+had+a+little+lamb+lyrics&form=VDRE&first=1#view=detail&mid=74DD51C9688490E8C2FC74DD51C9688490E8C2FC)

**Mary had a little lamb,
Little lamb, little lamb,
Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow
And everywhere that Mary went,
Mary went, Mary went,
Everywhere that Mary went
The lamb was sure to go.**

**It followed her to school one day
School one day, school one day
It followed her to school one day
Which was against the rules.**

**It made the children laugh and play,
Laugh and play, laugh and play,
It made the children laugh and play
To see a lamb at school.**

**And so the teacher turned it out,
Turned it out, turned it out,
And so the teacher turned it out,
But still it lingered near**

**And waited patiently about,
Patiently about, patiently about,
And waited patiently about
Till Mary did appear.**

"Why does the lamb love Mary so?"

Love Mary so? Love Mary so?

"Why does the lamb love Mary so?"

The eager children cry.

"Why, Mary loves the lamb, you know."

Loves the lamb, you know, loves the lamb, you know

"Why, Mary loves the lamb, you know."

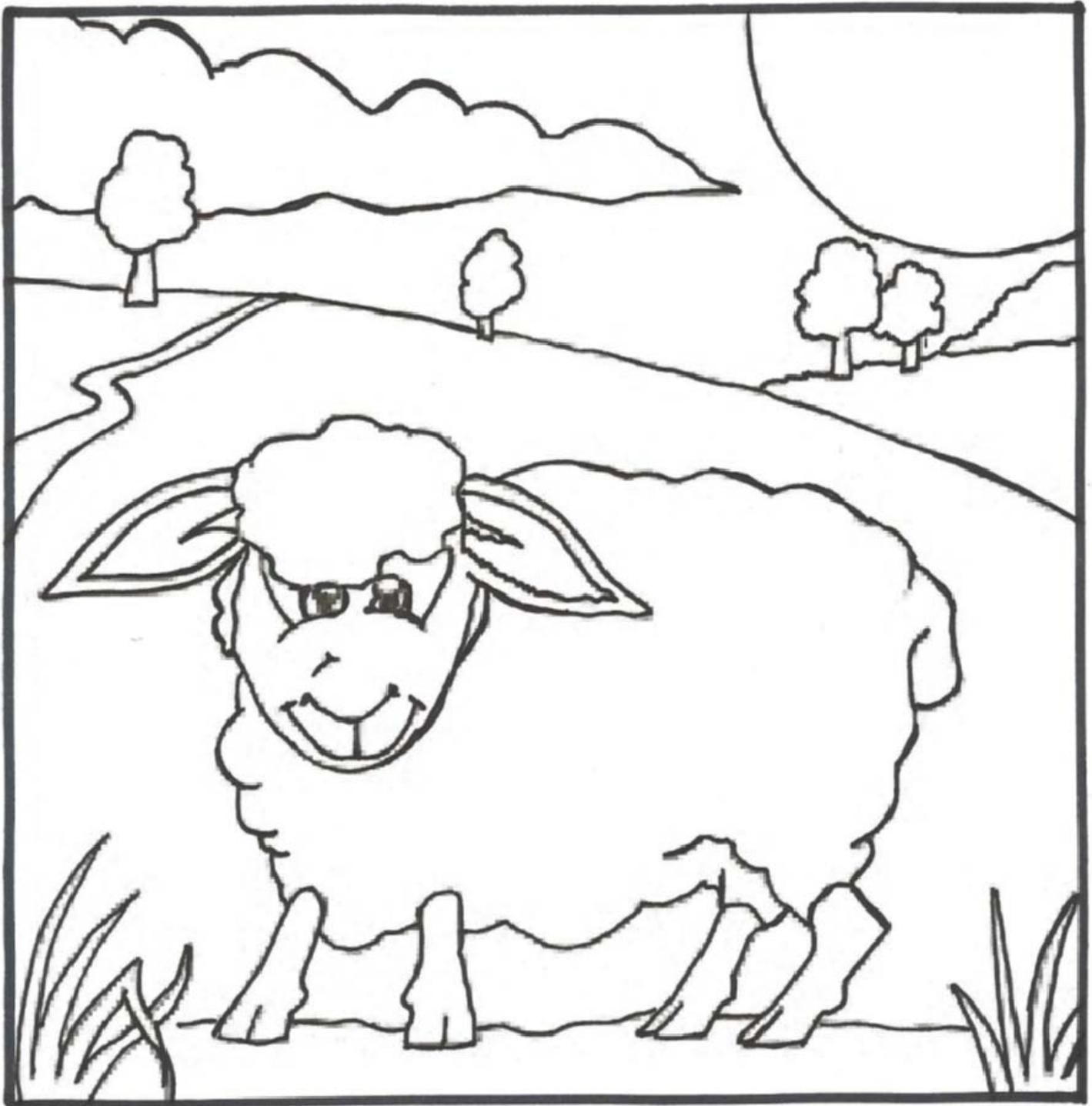
The teacher did reply.



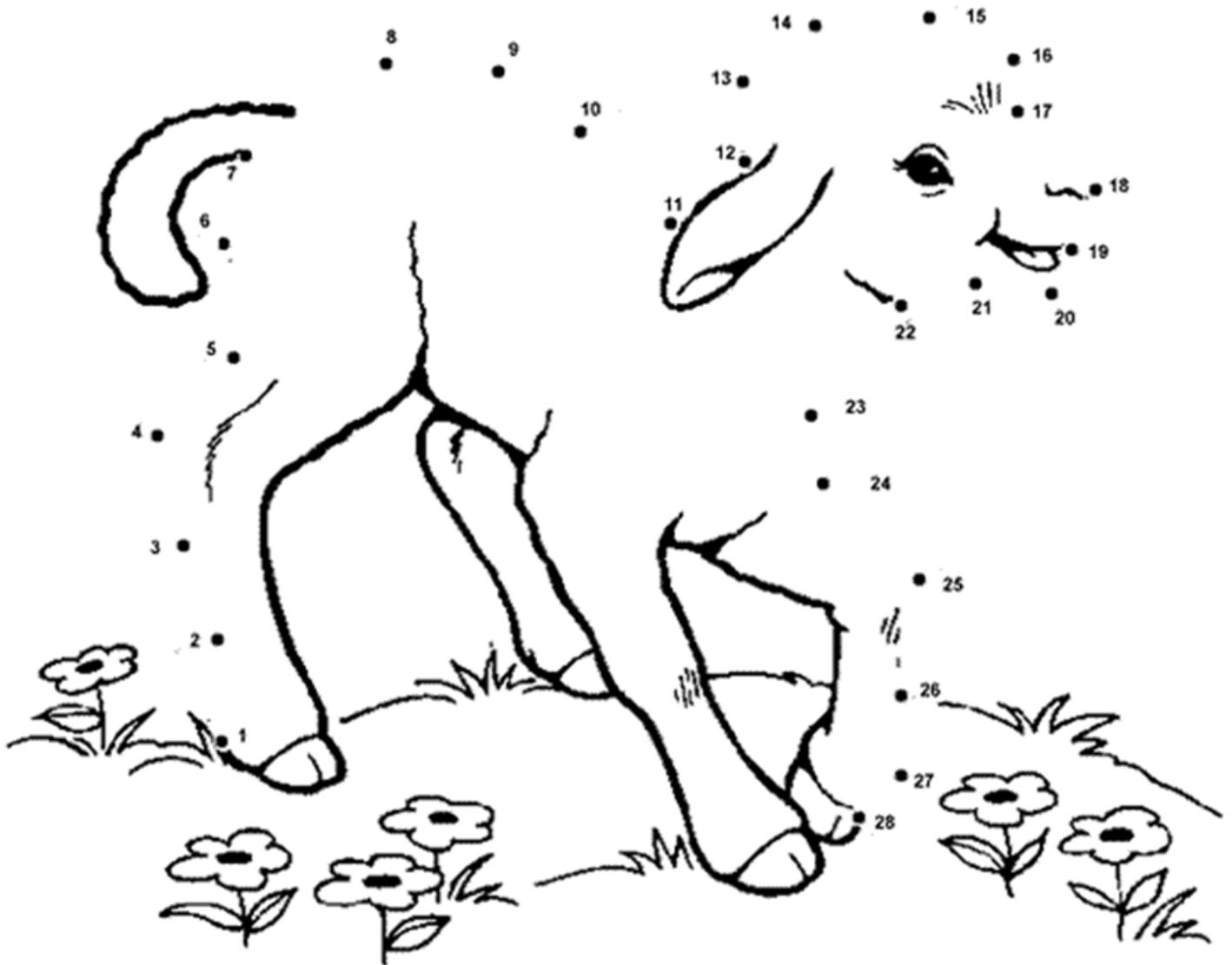
COLORING PAGES
MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB



Wool can be dyed many colors. Color this lamb your favorite color.



Connect the Dots



SHEEP WORDS GAME

Find the following words in the word find below. The words can be in a line, down or stair-stepped.

• RANCHER

• RAM

• WOOL

• LAMB

• GRAIN

• FAIR

• EWE

• WATER

• ORPHAN

J M O R P H A N G
E W E A B G E U R
D E O C F H W J A
I F L O G R A I N
K R A M L S T Q C
O J M I P T E U H
N L B M R W R V E
B K X O E A I K R



Hand Print Lamb

Trace your hand onto black paper using a white crayon. Cut it out. Make a face on the thumb with a white crayon or paint. Make white finger prints on the lamb or glue cotton balls onto the rest of the hand but leave part of the black so it has legs.



Tell Your Story in Pictures

Glue or tape pictures here with you and your lamb!

