

ACTIVITY

Cotton Farming: Science and Technology



REPRODUCIBLE MASTER G5-8

You may have a favorite cotton t-shirt or pair of jeans.

And you may know that cotton is used to make dollar bills, and that cottonseed oil is used as an ingredient in breads, cereals, and snacks. But do you know what it takes to grow the cotton needed to produce all these things, or about the science and technology involved?

Part 1: Go on a virtual visit with cotton farmers and researchers to learn more about their work and how they are helping the cotton industry.

Your teacher has assigned you a video to watch. Check off the box for your video.

Follow the link to navigate to your video:

Sledge and David Taylor, Como, MS

The Taylors show how technology helps them cut down on their use of water, fertilizer, and plant protection products. Video link: <https://cottonleads.org/field-stories/sledge-david-taylor/>

The Schniers Family, San Angelo, TX

This farming family uses technology to water crops and manage pesky bugs. Video link: <https://cottonleads.org/field-stories/the-schniers-family/>

Dr. Dan Carmichael, Lamesa, TX

Researcher Dan Carmichael, a champion for water conservation, discusses technologies he uses in Texas, the world's largest "cotton patch." Video link: <https://cottonleads.org/field-stories/dr-dan-carmichael/>

Steve Wilbur, Tulare, CA

Steve Wilbur talks about the system his family uses to irrigate crops and the seeds that they plant to produce cotton. Video link: <https://cottonleads.org/field-stories/steve-wilbur/>

Lacy Vardeman, Slaton, TX

Lacy Vardeman talks about the cottonseeds they use on her family's farm and how they help their cotton crops grow. Video link: <https://cottonleads.org/field-stories/lacy-vardeaman/>

Watch your assigned video with your group, and then answer these questions.

1. What role does this person play in the production of cotton?

2. What type of challenges do you think this person faces in their work?

3. How does technology impact this person's job or role?



Part 2: Get creative! Use your imagination to design an innovation that will help cotton farmers grow cotton efficiently and sustainably. It could be a new machine, a new type of pest control, or even a new variety of cotton. Write about your innovation in cotton production on the back of this sheet or on a separate piece of paper.