

ACTIVITY 1

How It All Began



REPRODUCIBLE MASTER

Did you know that denim jeans are made from a plant? They are made from the cotton plant. Learn about the cotton plant with me, Baxter Boll.



Part 1: Read Baxter Boll's story about the cotton lifecycle. Then answer the question below.

The cotton plant begins as a seed, which grows into a little sprout. After about two months, the plant produces a flower bud called a square, which blooms after a few weeks. Then, a few weeks after that, the flowers shed their petals and the cotton plant forms a boll — that's me! A boll is a seed pod that looks like a little green football.



It takes about two months for the boll to fill up with cotton fibers. Once full, it bursts open, and the fields are covered with fluffy white cotton ready for harvest. Cotton farmers use big machines to pull the plants out of the ground and separate the cotton fibers from the rest of the plant. Then they send the fiber to a cotton gin, where it is cleaned. From there, the cotton fiber goes to a spinning mill, where it is turned into yarn.



Cotton yarn is used to make cloth, like the denim for jeans. But that's not the end of the story! When cotton denim jeans (and other denim items) get worn out, they can be recycled, instead of being tossed in the trash. Recycled denim is used to make insulating material for homes, packaging, or even pet bedding!



What part of the cotton lifecycle is Baxter? _____

Part 2: Look at the pictures. Circle the ones you think are made with cotton.



Part 3: What do you think Baxter Boll will become? On the back of this sheet, draw a picture of the product you think Baxter will become. Write a sentence about why you chose the product.

Families! Can you name five products made from cotton or that contain cotton? Check out cottoninc.com/aboutcotton/pressroom/did-you-know to learn more.

