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Level: Grades 3-5

Subjects: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Skills: Collecting data, communication, concluding, internet researching, map reading, recording, explaining, drawing conclusions

Lesson 8 Maine Fiber Today

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Not many years ago, America began trading in a new way with countries all around the world. Shoppers began to choose fabrics and clothing made in other countries, because the prices were lower. While this seemed good for shoppers' wallets, it was not very good for Maine's mills, and one by one, they began to close.

But there is now good news for Maine! Maine farms are growing more fiber than ever, and there are more and more little mills springing up around our state. In fact, Maine has one of the fastest-growing fiber industries in America! Farm families are tending sheep, fiber goats, alpacas, llamas, and angora rabbits. Some are trying to learn more efficient ways to grow flax for producing linen.

Spinning yarn and weaving cloth at home has continued to be an important activity in Maine. Perhaps you know someone who is a spinner or weaver today.

