

## **Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum**

### **Making your own Estonian winter gloves**

*5 minutes prep, 25 minutes of class time*

This unit is meant to build upon the child's knowledge of wool as a textile; where it comes from, how it is made and the various stages of that process. The curriculum begins with a tour of Estonia and its capital city Tallinn, before moving into a more in depth lesson about sheep, and how wool is made. Estonia is a country that endures cold winters, and there is a cultural tradition of making beautiful wool hats and gloves for export.

#### **Required Materials:**

1. A pair of small cotton gloves (we bought ours bulk online for about \$1 each)
2. Squeezable fabric paints, one set for every 4-5 kids
3. (optional) Some raw, unwound and untreated wool. Giving the students some tangible wool to feel and smell really assisted in our lesson, and the kids loved it!
4. (optional) A spool of wool yarn.

**Preparation:** Separate materials out into the amounts needed for your activity groups/tables. Take one glove from each set so that each student only has one glove, the paired glove can be held to the side by the instructor until step 3 below. (optional) we also

#### **Lesson Plan:**

1. Begin by asking the children what country we live in, and then help them locate that country on a map or globe. Then show them where Estonia is on a map/globe. (2 mins)
2. Use the powerpoint or printed images to take the children on a tour of Estonia and see how wool is made. (see power point for more detailed notes on images) (5 mins)
  - a. First half of the powerpoint highlights the capital city of Tallinn
  - b. Second half of the powerpoint teaches the students about wool, and the steps in the process from sheep to article of clothing.
3. Explain the activity to the class (10 mins):
  - a. They will decorate one side of one glove with the fabric paint. Stress that they should use the paint very sparingly, only squeezing a little at a time and drawing with them rather than creating large blobs. If you know your class to be particularly messy, you can have them make blobs of a single color, and then use toothpicks to articulate lines from that initial blob..
  - b. Once they are done decorating a single glove, the teacher will give them the paired glove. This glove will be pressed onto the original glove (probably with the help of the instructor), duplicating its fabric paint design in a mirrored version. This will effectively disperse any overuse of paint as well.
  - c. Once this is completed, and the gloves have been separated, they need to be set aside to dry for 24 hours.