

Cotton on 'Koramba'



Daniel Peden and Harrison Bryan
Boomi Public School

Enviro-Stories Education Program

Enviro-Stories is a competition based education program for primary schools that was developed by PeeKdesigns.



www.envirostories.com.au

This program provides an education and learning experience for kids through their active engagement with natural resource and catchment management issues. The final product is a published story written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids and future generations.

In 2012, the “Our Farmers, Our Future” Enviro-Stories Education Program provided local kids with the opportunity to write and illustrate stories about life on the farm. This program was sponsored by the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, Australian Government’s Caring for our Country, Central West and Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authorities and Cotton Australia.

Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC is an industry partnership leading research, education and commercialisation in the Australian cotton industry.

www.cottoncrc.org.au

Australian Government’s Caring for our Country

Caring for our Country is one way the Australian Government funds environmental management of our natural resources by supporting communities, farmers and other land managers to protect Australia’s natural environment and sustainability.

www.nrm.gov.au

Central West CMA

The Central West CMA is committed to work with the community to conserve, improve and manage natural and cultural resources. The catchment is located in central western New South Wales.

www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au

Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA

The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA strives for balanced production and conservation within resilient landscapes. The catchment is located in northern New South Wales, just west of the Great Diving Range.

www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au

Cotton Australia

Cotton Australia is the peak body for Australia’s cotton growing industry, supporting over 1500 cotton farming families in New South Wales and Queensland.

www.cottonaustralia.com.au

Cotton on 'Koramba'

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School: Boomi Public School

The "Our Farmers, Our Future" Enviro-Stories Education Program consists of the following books:

Sponsored by Cotton Catchment Communities CRC and Caring for our Country

- Fluffy's Getting Shorn
- A Great Turnaround
- The New Farm
- The Farmer Changes His Ways
- I Own it All
- Drought and Flooding Rains

Sponsored by Central West CMA

- My Life on a Sheep Farm
- A Weekend on our Farm
- Farm Animals
- Life on the Farm

Sponsored by both the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC and the Central West CMA

- Euchareena School Gardening

Sponsored by Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA

- Hoot the Owl Saves the Day
- Our Farms are Our Future
- Life as a Sheep
- What we have on Farms

Sponsored by Cotton Australia

- Cotton on 'Koramba'

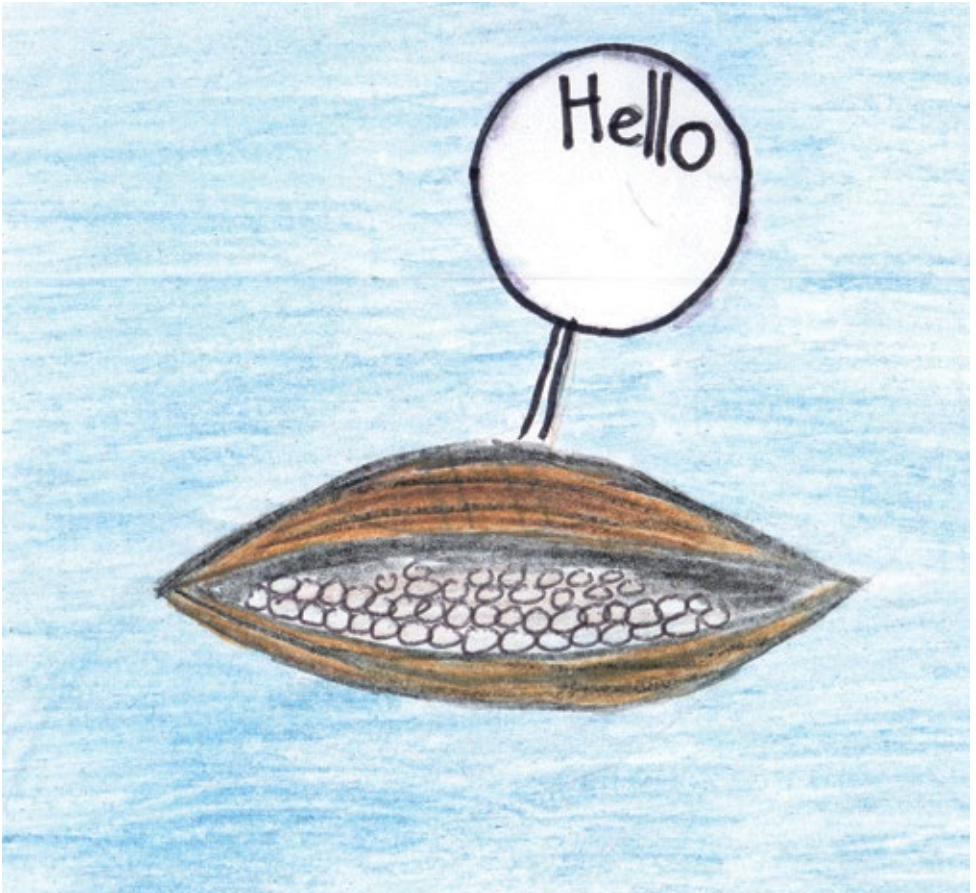
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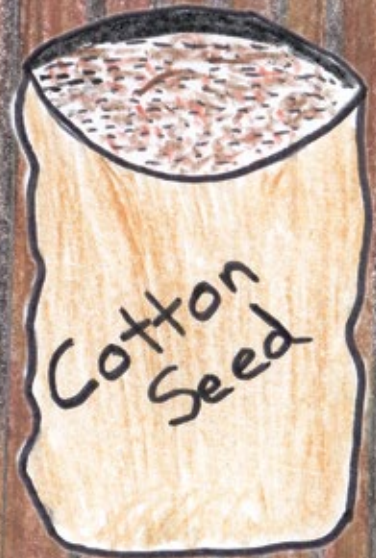


Hi, my name is Sam the cottonseed.
I am going to tell you the story of my life
cycle on 'Koramba' farm.

I also want to tell you about how
important farmers and the environment
were in helping me turn into a healthy
cotton plant.

The first thing that happens in the cotton life cycle is that the farmers on 'Koramba' prepared the fields.

They bought the seeds to plant. I was one of those seeds.



The fields were sprayed
to control weeds and
then dug up to show the
healthy soil.

A farmer on a tractor
planted me and my seed
friends into the soil.

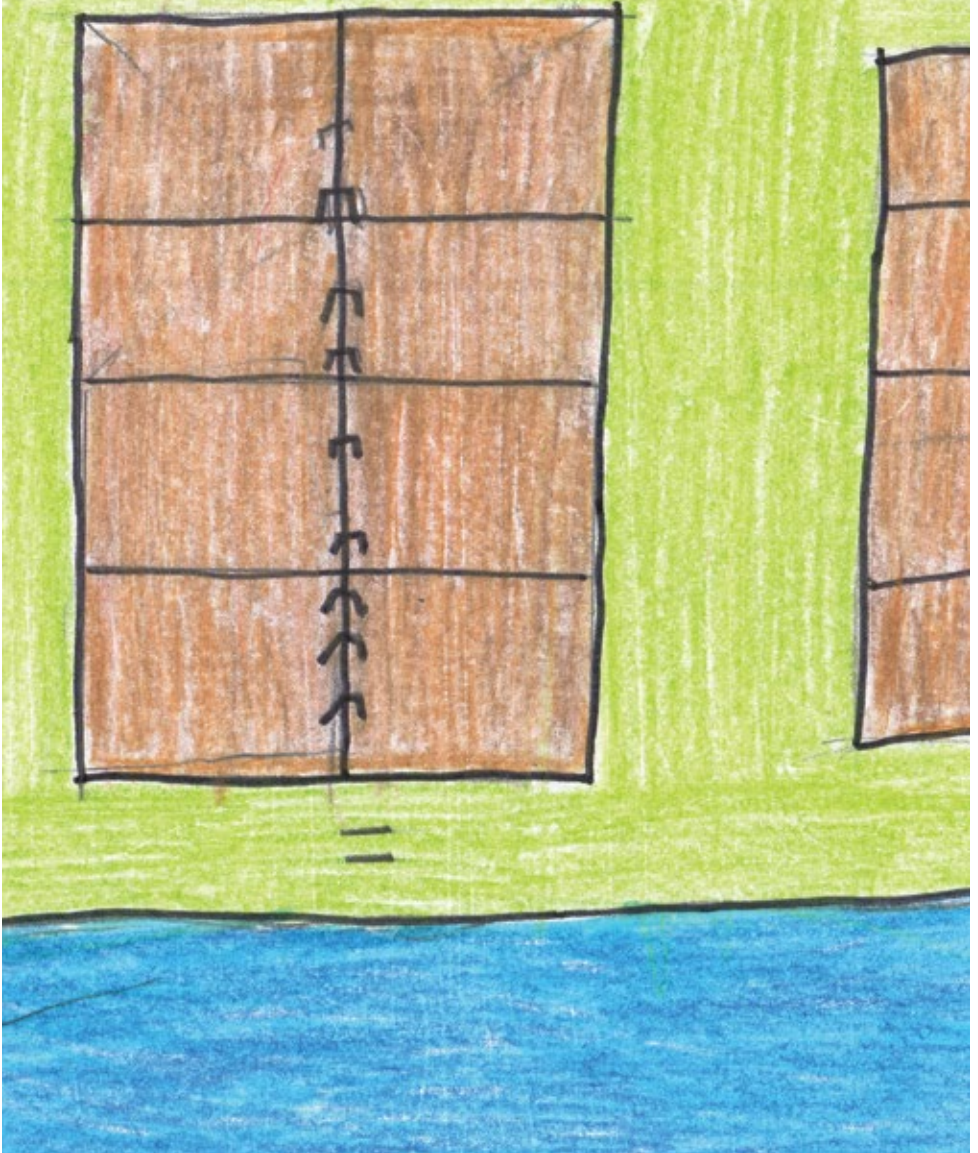


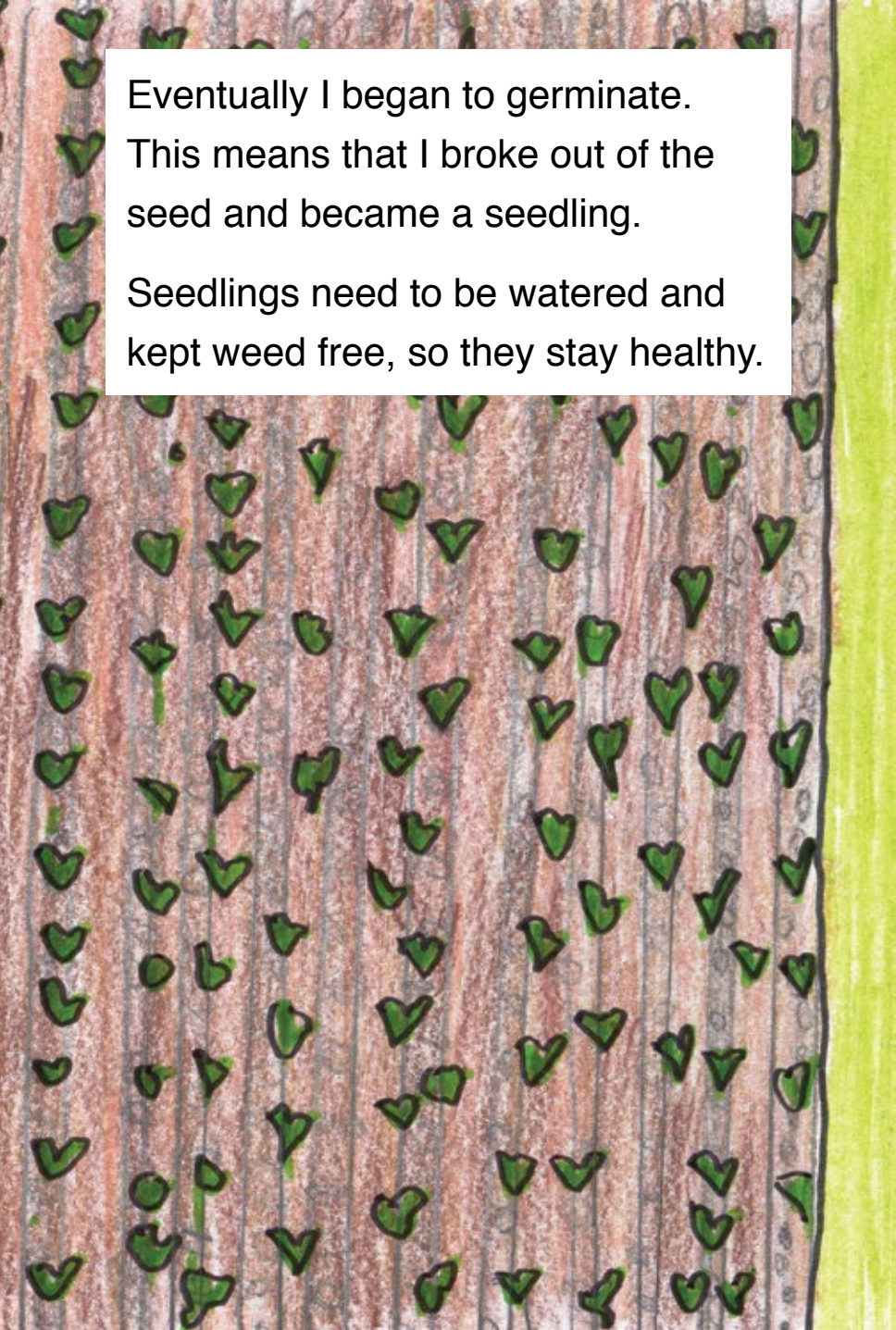


One of the most important things for me to survive on 'Koramba' is fresh water.

The farmers have big dams for storing water. They also use water from the Barwon River. The farmers had to irrigate me and keep me watered, so I was healthy and grew big and strong.

To run a successful property the farmer must become an expert on how to manage water.



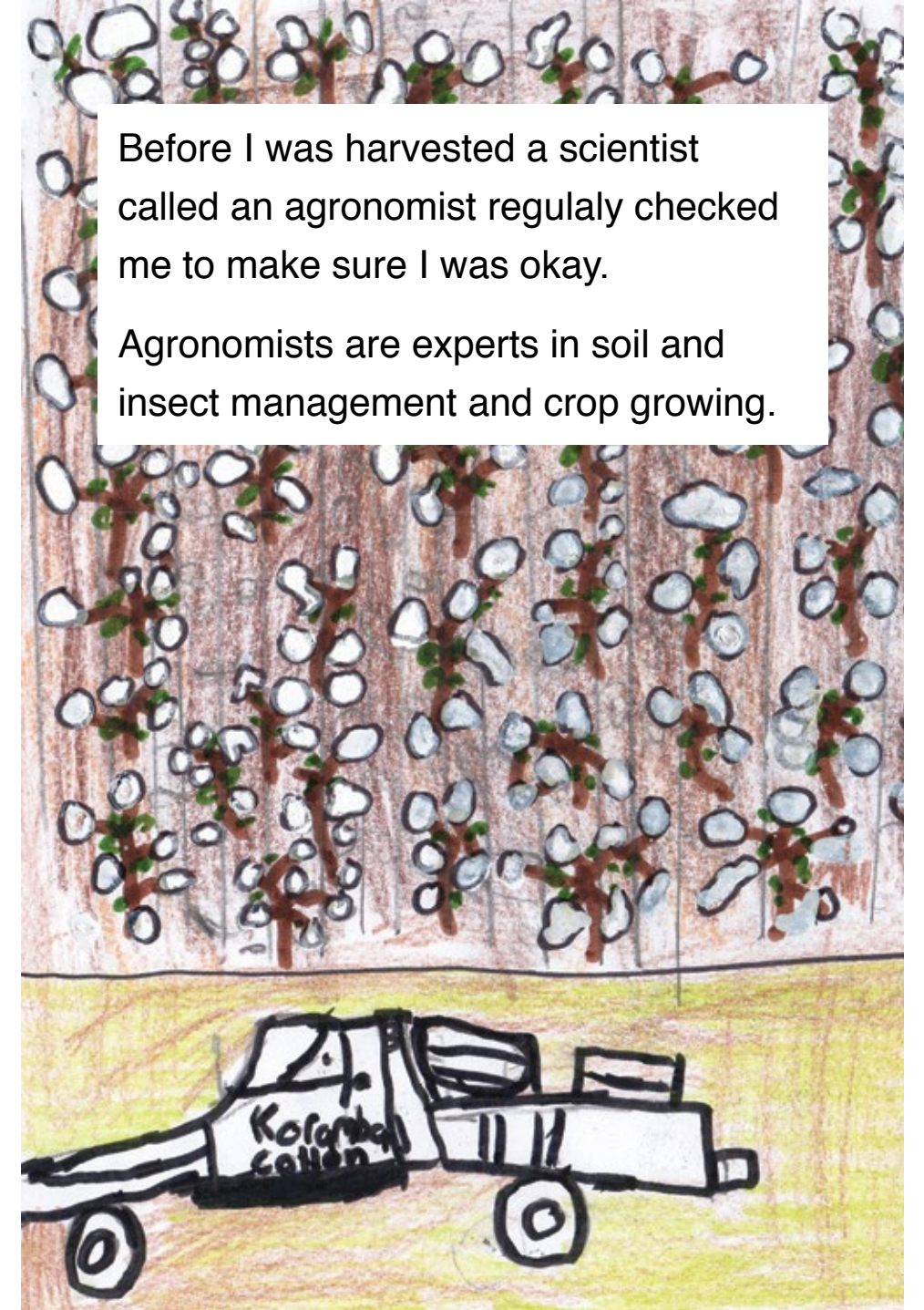


Eventually I began to germinate.
This means that I broke out of the
seed and became a seedling.

Seedlings need to be watered and
kept weed free, so they stay healthy.

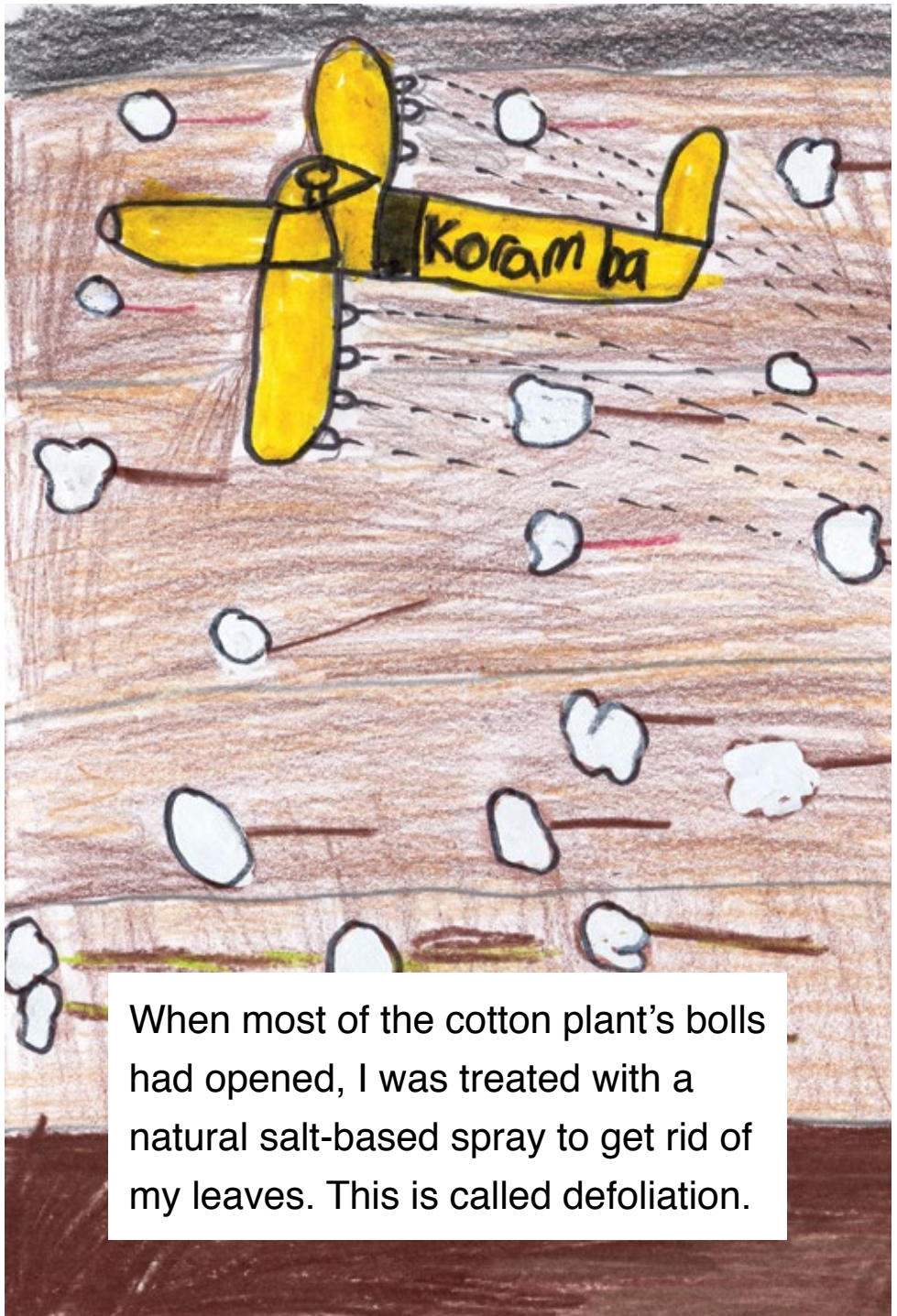
It took me 180 days to grow from a seed to a plant that is ready to be harvested.





Before I was harvested a scientist called an agronomist regularly checked me to make sure I was okay.

Agronomists are experts in soil and insect management and crop growing.



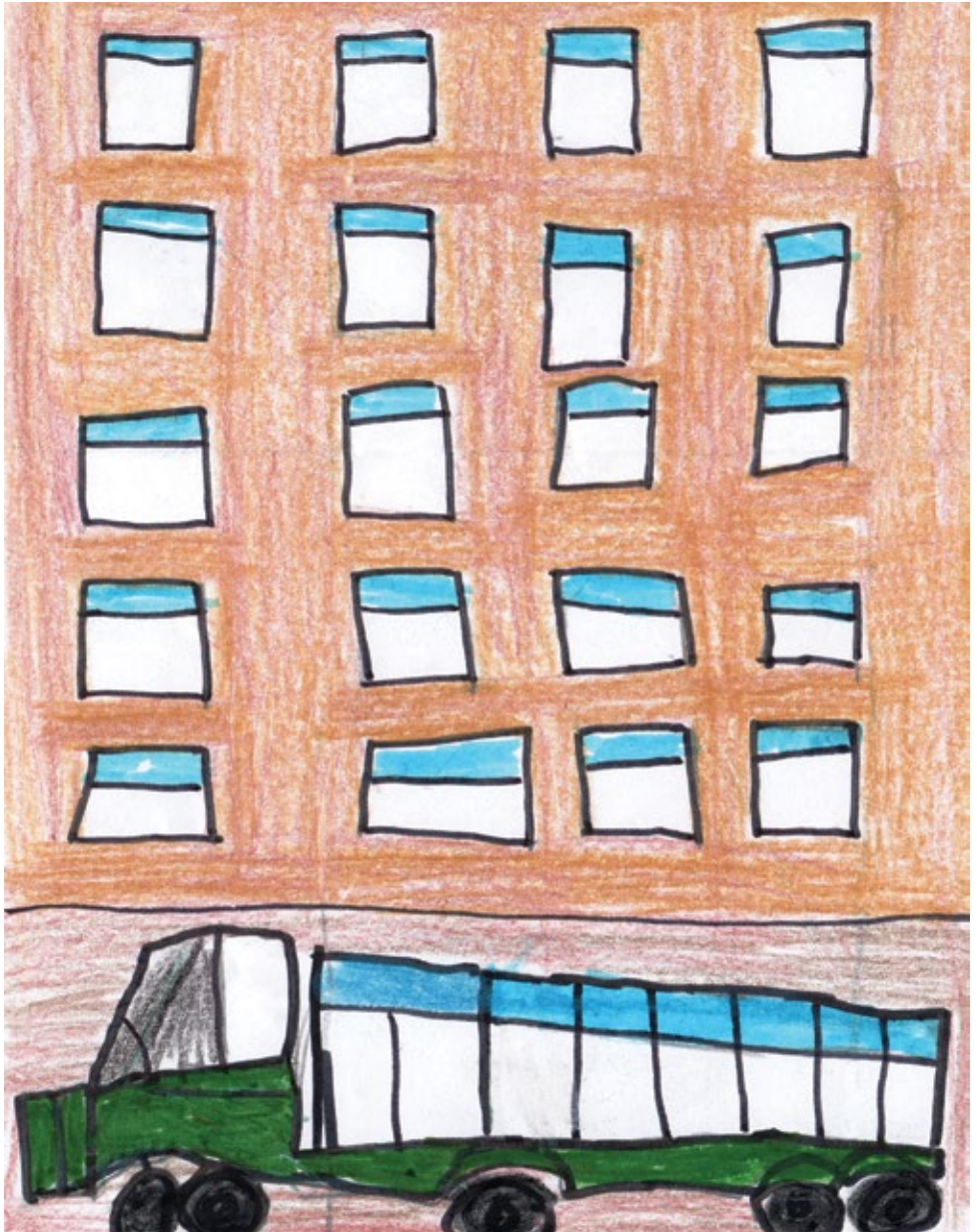
When most of the cotton plant's bolls had opened, I was treated with a natural salt-based spray to get rid of my leaves. This is called defoliation.

I was now ready for picking.

Cotton is picked by using cotton strippers, cotton pickers or by the new round balers.



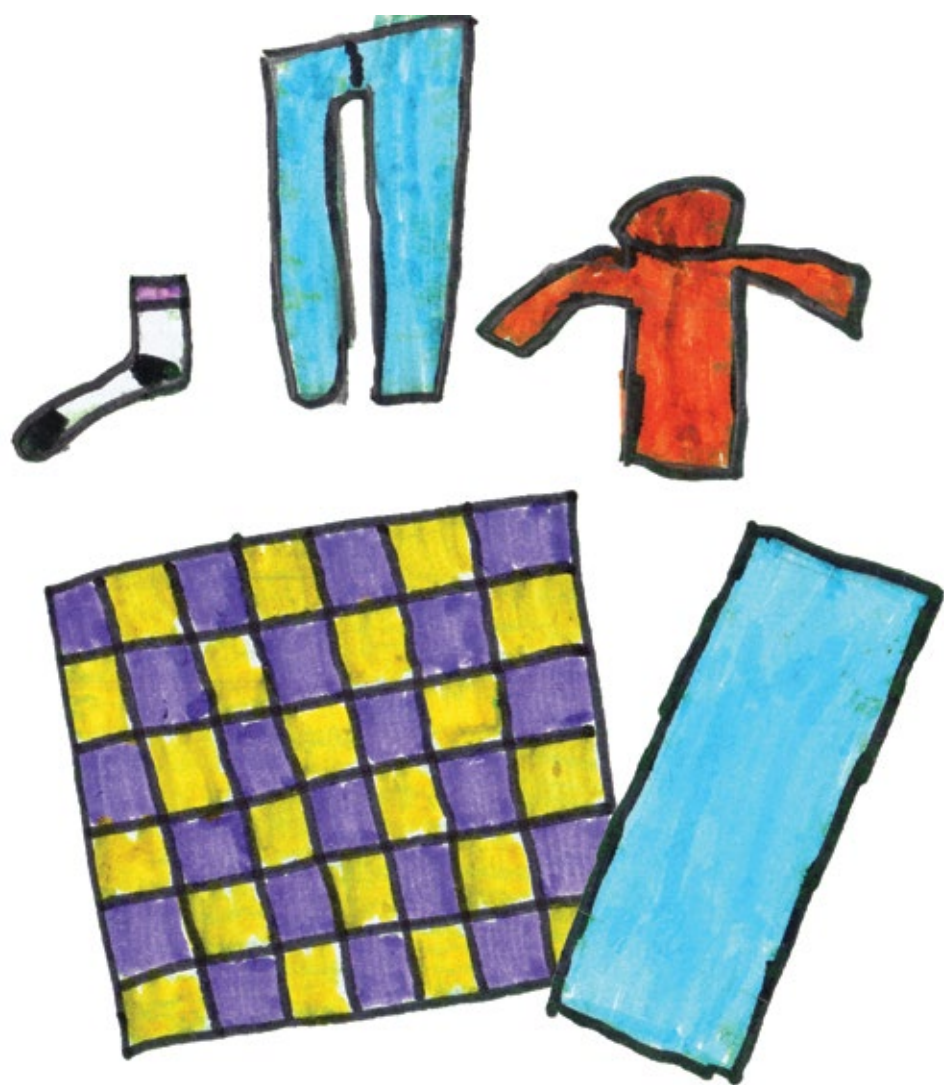
After being picked I was trucked to the cotton gin and stored.



Cotton gins run for about 100 days a year to gin the cotton. Ginning is the separation of the cotton fibres from the seeds and other material.

Local people from around the district are employed to work at the cotton gin.





After the gin I was put in a big bale of cotton. My bale was sent to a mill to be turned into fabric.

Cotton can be made into many products that we use every day. Did you know that the fibre from one 227 kg cotton bale can produce:

- 215 pairs of jeans
- 250 single bed sheets
- 750 shirts
- 1,200 t-shirts
- 2,100 boxer shorts
- 3,000 nappies
- 4,300 pairs of socks



Cotton farmers have to look after their land and water resources while they grow their cotton. They need to make sure that the environment remains healthy.

I hope you enjoyed learning about my cotton life and how important it is to take care of the environment for future generations.





Harrison Bryan and Daniel Peden
Boomi Public School, Grade 6 2012



Cotton Catchment Communities CRC



Australian Government

Cotton Research and
Development Corporation



Catchment Management
Authority
Central West



Catchment Management
Authority
Border Rivers-Gwydir



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



National
Year of
Reading
2012



COTTON
AUSTRALIA