

The Spring Gully Cotton Farm



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Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by Peekdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area.

www.envirostories.com.au

Cotton Research and Development Corporation

Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) is a partnership between the Australian Government and the Australian cotton industry. CRDC invests in and manages a portfolio of research, development and extension projects that seek to enhance the environmental, social and economic values associated with cotton production systems for the benefit of cotton industry participants, regional communities and the Australian people.

www.crdc.com.au

The Spring Gully Cotton Farm

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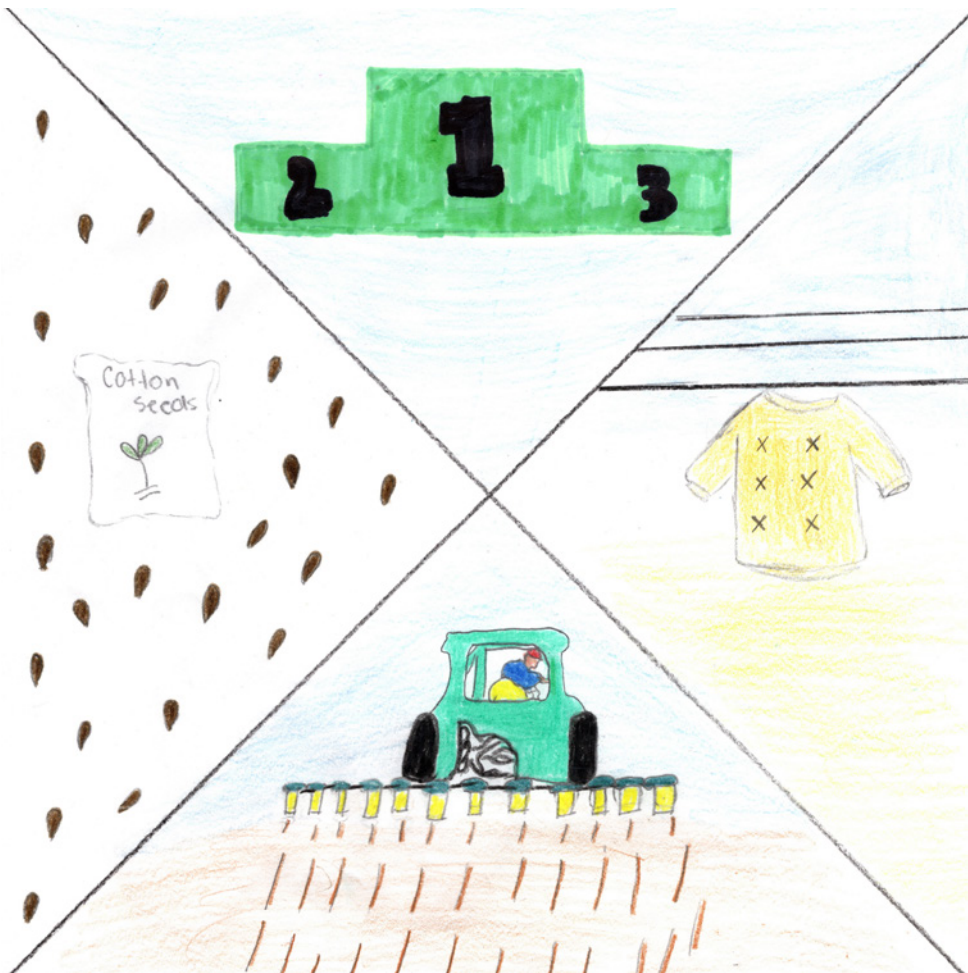




Hello, my name is Candy, and I am a cotton plant. I live on a cotton farm 3 kilometres southwest of Narrabri, NSW.



I live with my friends Carlie and Callie who are also cotton plants.



We are having a competition to see who can produce the best quality fibre.

We find this out by going through the cotton production process.



Firstly, our cotton seeds are planted in spring with a seed planter.

We shoot up towards the sun, growing into a green bushy shrub that stands about one metre in height.

As plants we briefly grow pink and cream coloured flowers, that drop off once pollinated.



They are replaced with fruit, better known as cotton bolls.

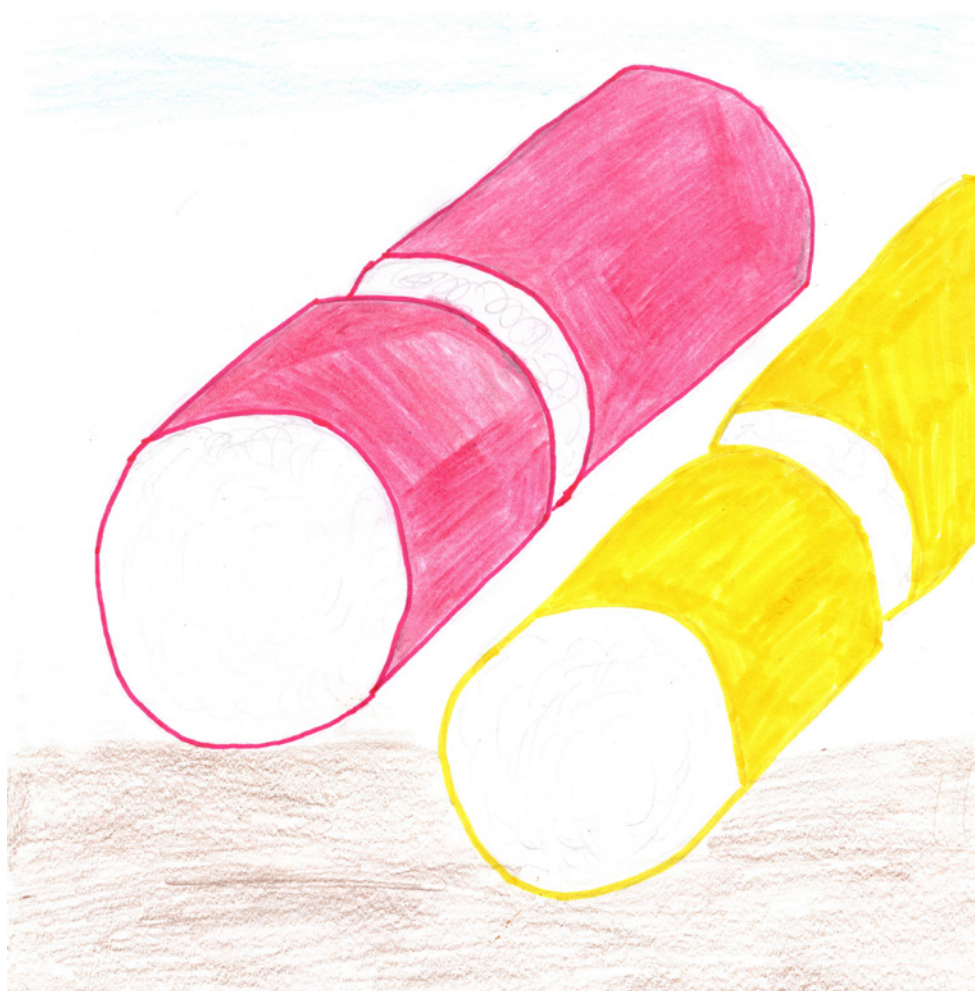
Then we go through all the watering and fertilisation stages ready for the picking season in autumn.

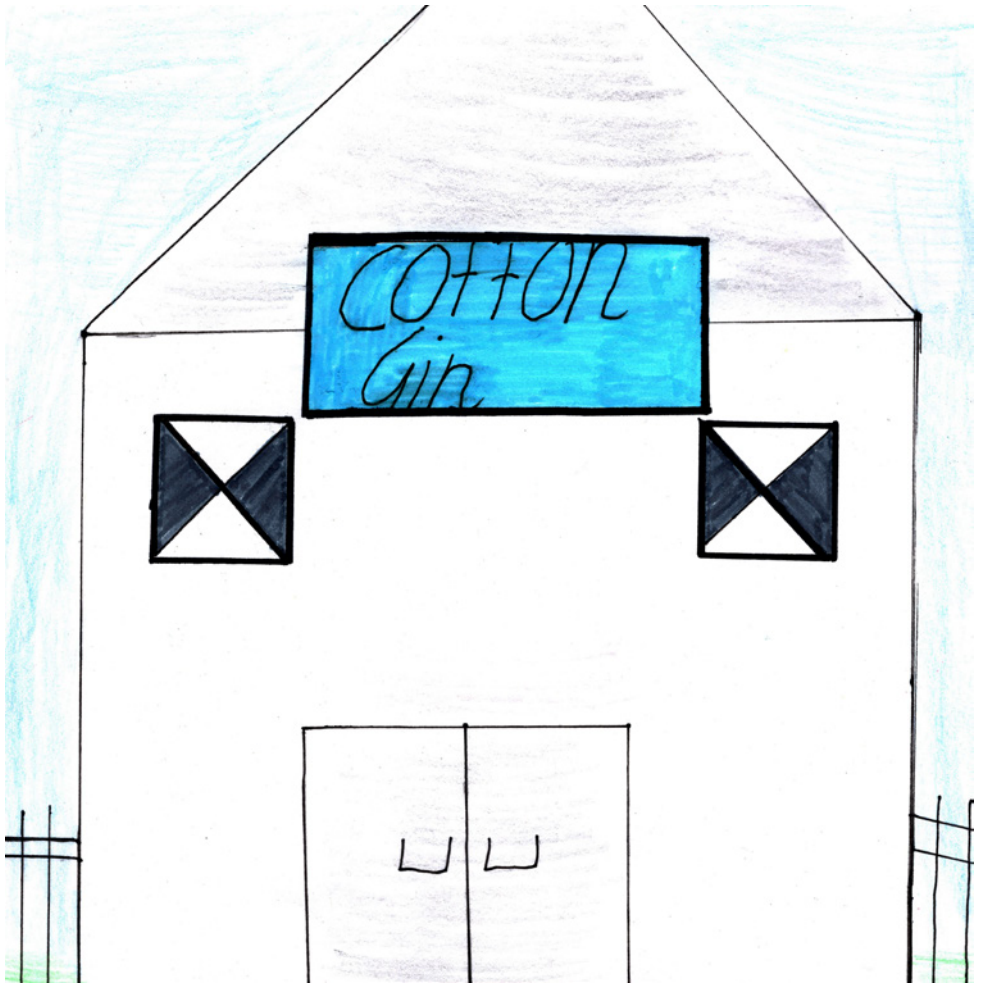
Our cotton bolls are then picked with large mechanical harvesters.



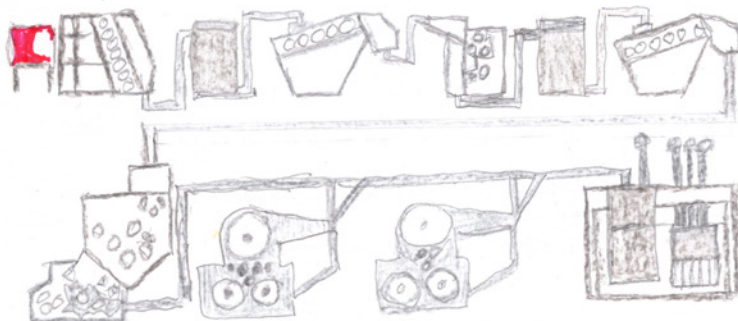
We are gathered in round modules and wrapped in yellow wrapping.

Sometimes we are even wrapped in pink wrap to help us raise awareness for breast cancer. A small donation from these modules is made to the McGrath Foundation.





They send us off in modules to cotton gins for processing. During the ginning process, our lint is separated from the cotton seeds.

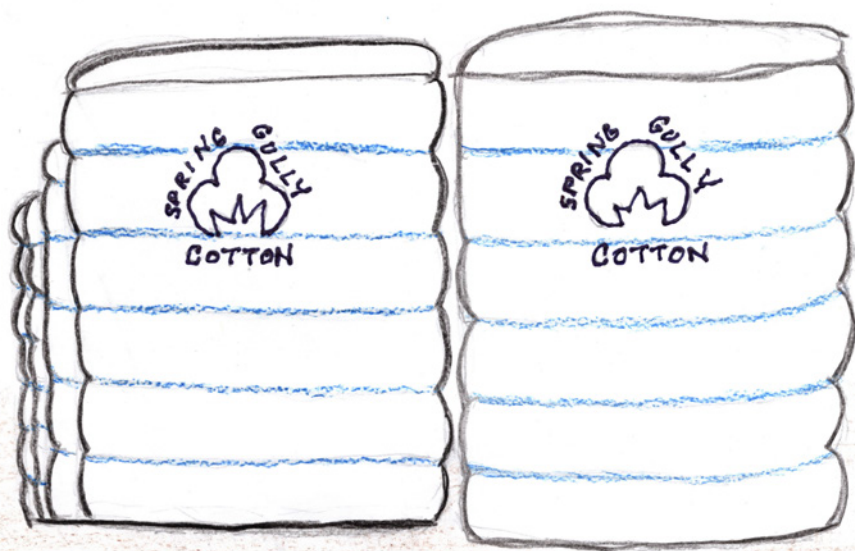


We are washed at a moisture level of 5%.

We are then dried and cleaned to remove sticks, dirt and any other leaf trash that may be holding on.

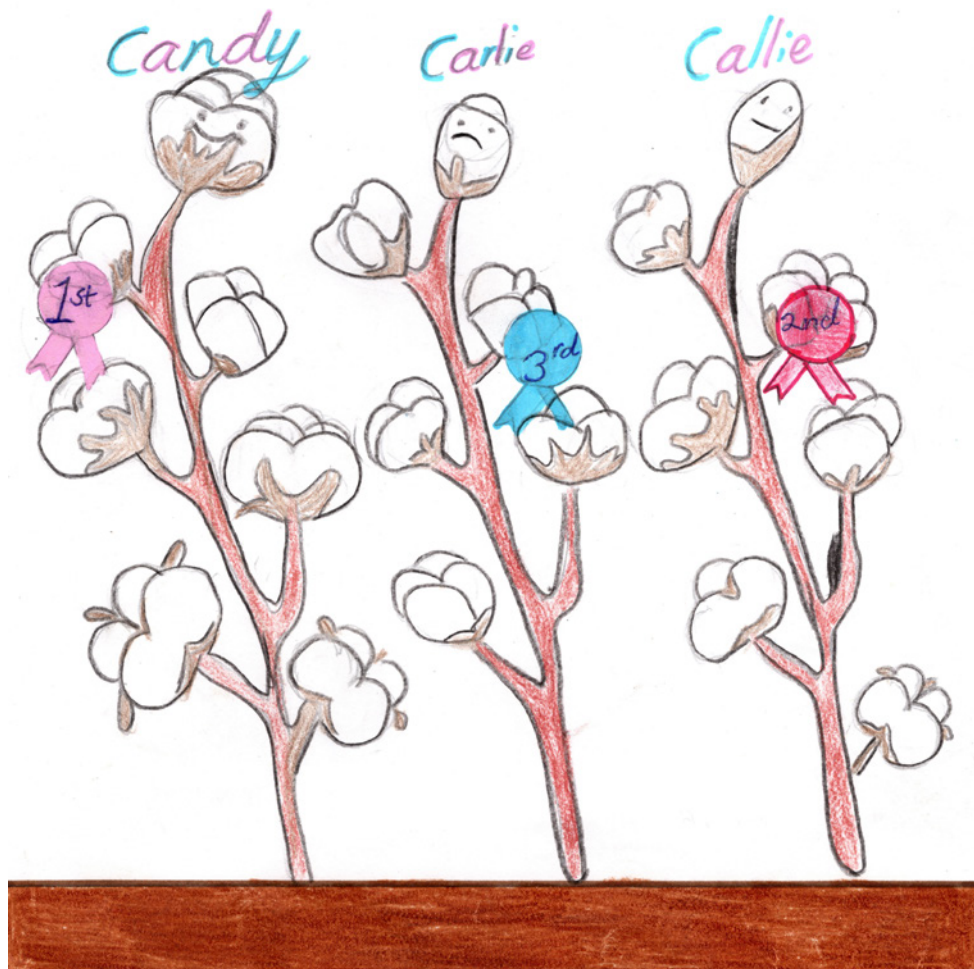


We are pressed into rectangular bales. Each of our bales weighs approximately 227 kilograms.





Samples are taken from the bales. We are then put into quality-based grades and classes. The better our grading, the more we are worth. This is the exciting part...

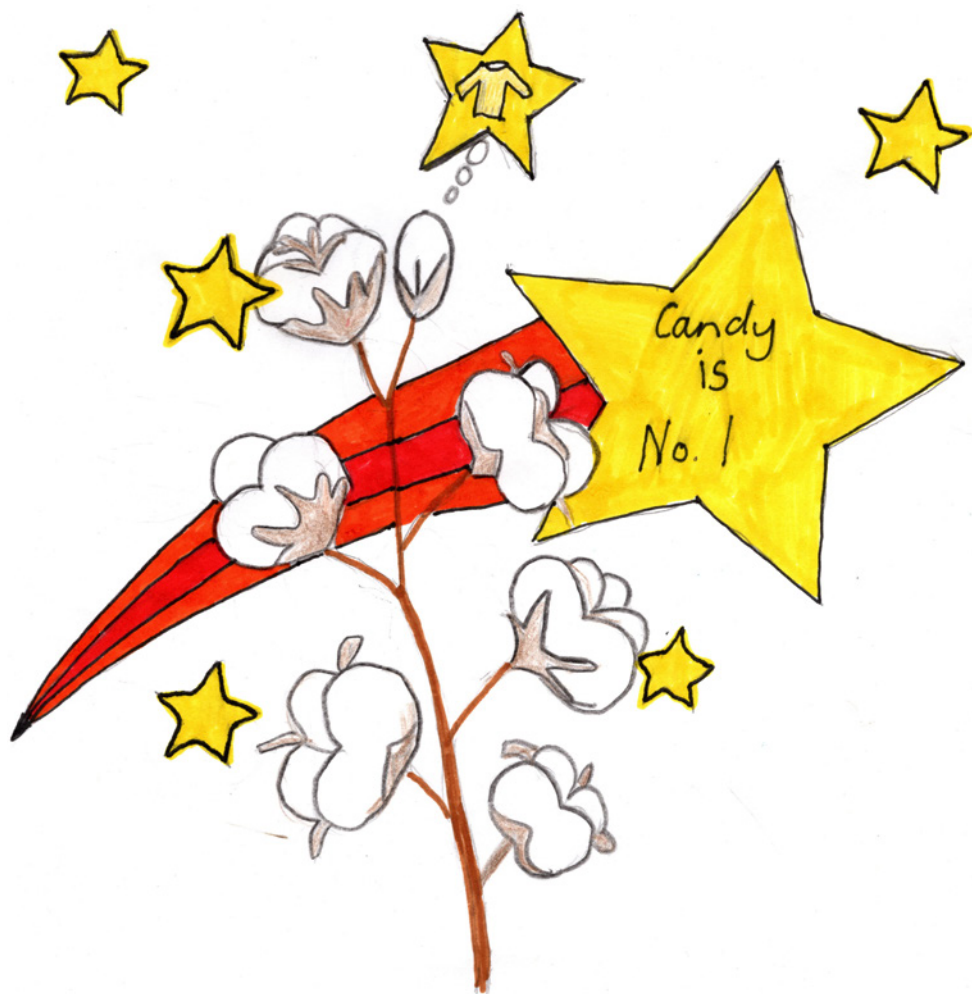


...this is where we find out who has the best quality fibre.

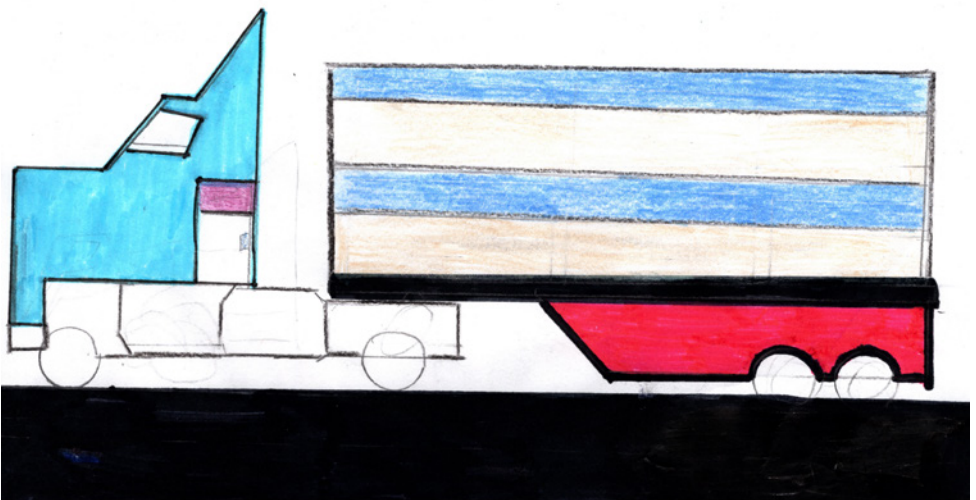
This year in the competition, I got first place, Callie got second place and Carlie got third.

I couldn't believe it! I was so lucky.

This is a big thing for me because I usually get second or third place behind my friends. This is my first ever time winning, I'm so excited!



Our cotton is transported on a large truck where it is taken to factories around the world. It is going to be made into clothes, towels and many other wonderful things.



Winning the competition will hopefully mean I am made into the best quality jumper.

This is what I have always dreamed of and I can't wait to keep someone warm during winter.





Bella Bakhuis
Narrabri Public School, Year 6 2021



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