

Elkus Ranch Wool Dyeing with Kool-Aid

Outside craft, high on the messy craft scale and takes a few days

Packets of **unsweetened Kool-Aid** in various colors/flavors (or liquid food coloring)

Light colored wool from Elkus Ranch's annual sheep shearing, one handful per student

Zip lock style sandwich bags, with one student name on each bag in indelible marker

One teaspoon of **white vinegar** per student

One tub of soapy water (dish soap) and two tubs of clear water, refresh water as needed



1. Have students wash their wool in the soapy water then rinse in both rinse water tubs
2. Students ring out as much of the water from their wool as they can
3. Students put the wet wool inside a sandwich bag labeled with the student's name
4. Students put 1/3 of a packet of Kool-Aid (or drops of food coloring to their liking) and about a **tsp of vinegar** into the sandwich bag with the damp wool and zip shut
5. Students massage the wool inside of the sandwich bag until color is on all the wool
6. Leave closed, labeled sandwich bags of wool soaking overnight (longer is better) to get the best color saturation

Then when you are ready a day or so later...

7. Put out two tubs of rinse water
8. Have each student pull their wool from the zip lock bag but keep their labeled sandwich bag on a surface where the wool can be set overnight to dry
9. Have each student rinse out their wool in the rinse buckets then ring it out as dry as possible
10. Each student should place their rinsed dyed wool on top of their labeled sandwich bag to dry overnight

Then when you are ready a day or so later...

11. The dyed wool can be used to spin a bracelet, felt a ball, or an Elkus Ranch favorite, glue onto sheep artwork

