





Rearing and breeding of sheep-

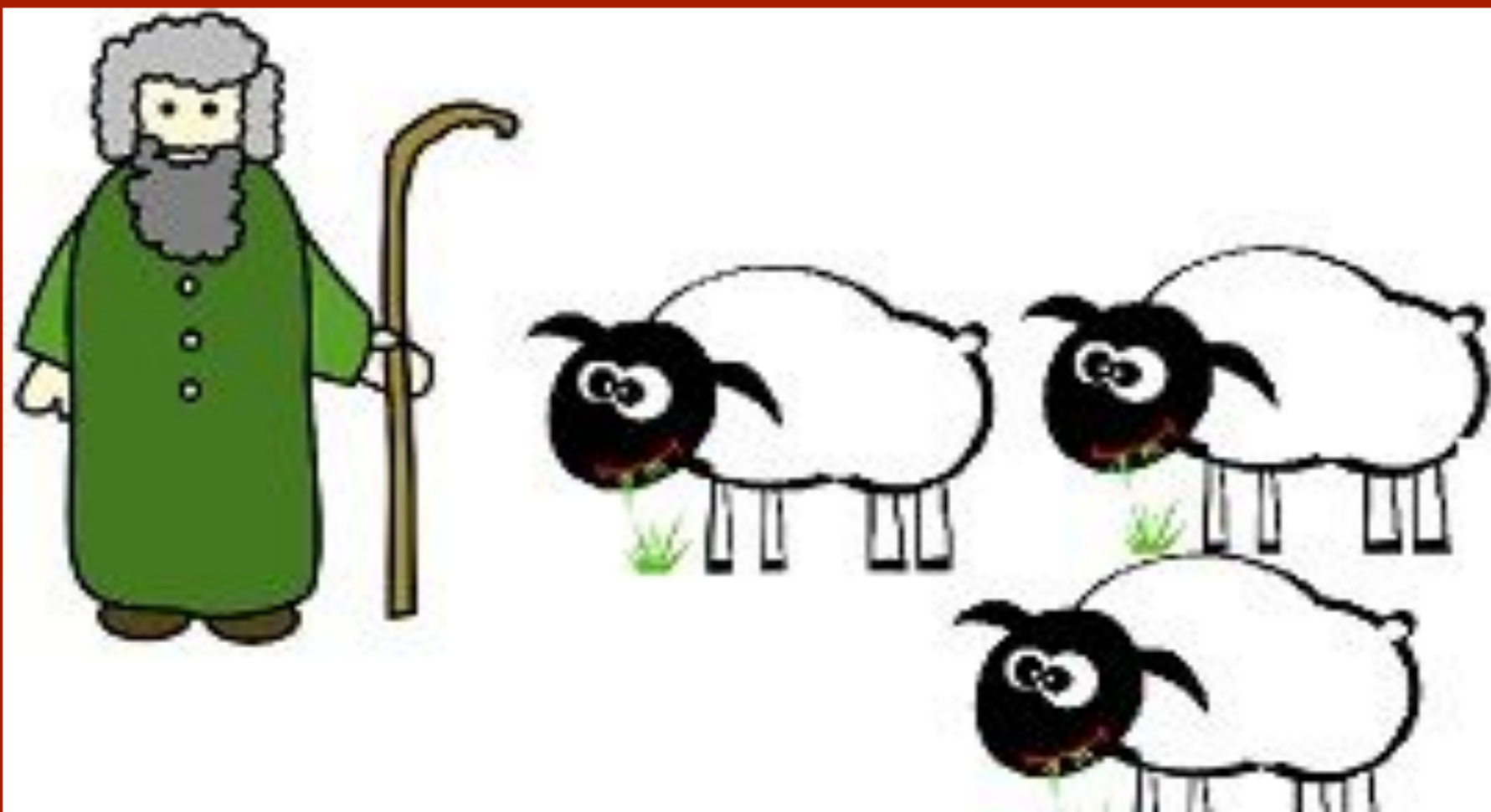
To get the best quality wool it is first necessary to select the best quality wool yielding parent. This process of selecting parents in order to obtain good quality wool in their offspring is termed as selective breeding.



In India, sheep are reared generally in the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, or the plains of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat.



The sheep are taken out for grazing. They are also fed on a mixture of pulses, corn, jowar, oil cakes and minerals to ensure good yield of wool. Once the reared sheep develops a thick growth of hair, hair is shaved off for getting wool.






Processing fibres into wool -

Step I: The first step is the removal of the fleece of the sheep along with a thin layer of skin. This process is termed as shearing. The hair provides woollen fibres that are then processed to obtain woollen yarn.






Step II: The sheared fleece is systematically washed in tanks in order to remove the grease, dust and dirt. This is known as scouring.




Scouring in tanks



Step III: The scoured hair is then sorted and sent to a factory where hair of different textures are separated or sorted.


Step IV: Here the small fluffy fibres, called burrs, are separated from the hair and the hair is scoured again and dried. The wool is then ready to be drawn into fibres.



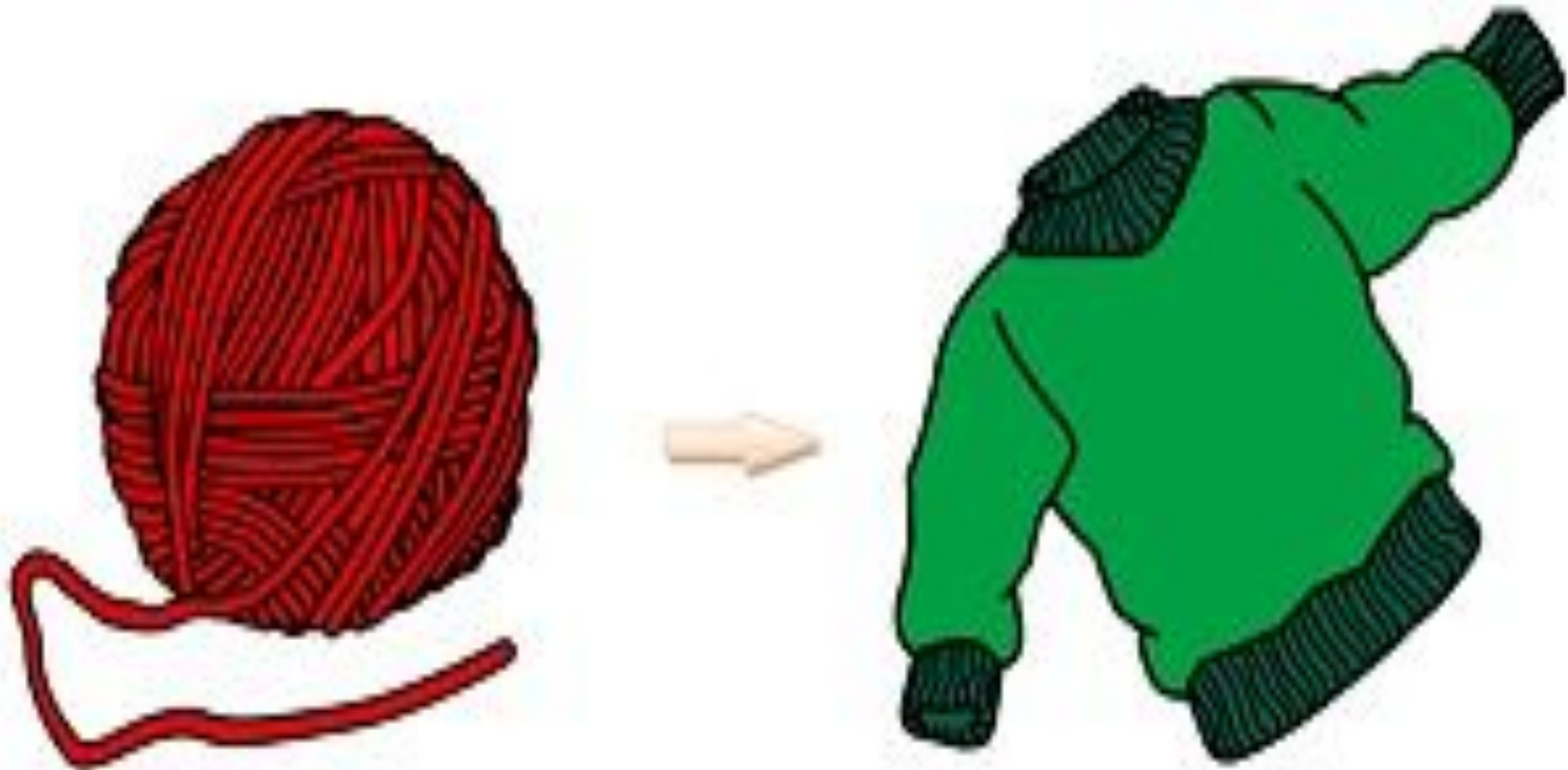
Step V: The fibres are dyed into various vibrant colours because the natural colour of the fleece is black, brown or white.



Dyed fibres of wool



Step VI: The fibres are then straightened, combed and finally rolled into yarn. The longer fibres are made into wool for sweaters whereas the shorter fibres are spun and woven into woollen cloth.



The woollen fibres rolled into yarn is used to weave sweaters

PLENARY

Application Based Questions -

Q. Sorter's disease is an occupational hazard. Explain.

A. Wool industry is an important source of livelihood for many people in our country. The people who do the job of sorting (separating) the fleece of sheep into fibres of different qualities are called sorters. The sorter's job is very risky because sometimes, they get infected by the bacteria called 'anthrax' which cause a deadly blood disease called sorter's disease.

ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION

Q. Various steps involved to obtain wool from fleece are given here.

1. Picking out the burrs
2. Dyeing in various colours
3. Shearing
4. Scouring
5. Sorting

Write the above steps in the correct sequence in which they are carried out.

Correct sequence is

(iii) Shearing



(iv) Scouring



(v) Sorting



(i) Picking out the burrs



(ii) Dyeing in various colours