Angel of Grasmere by Tom Palmer



Herdwick sheep craft activity

Over thousands of years, farmers have selected and bred sheep for their suitability to where they live and for their type of wool. Male sheep are called Rams and female sheep are called Ewes.

Farmers today still clip the fleece off their sheep each year and it can come in lots of colour combinations of white, grey, brown and black.

Herdwicks are a distinctive breed of sheep that have evolved to cope with the Lake District's extremely cold and snowy winters. Their sweet lambs are born fully black and as they grow up their bodies turn a lighter grey. Herdwick adults develop distinctive "smiley" white woolly faces which keep them warm and waterproof.



Across the Lake District, farmers mark the sheep ears to tell who they belong to if they stray off their bit of fell. They mark the fleece with coloured dyes to show when they are expecting lambs!

In Angel of Grasmere by Tom Palmer, Herdwicks feature in a very dramatic winter snowy chapter.



Instructions

- 1 On white card, draw a bean-shaped body or use the template and cut it out.
- 2 Take 2 clothes pegs. Draw a short line down the bottom of each peg to show their cloven hooves.
- 3 Attach the 2 clothes pegs on either side of the belly of the beanshaped body.
- 4 Attach long piece of grey wool using the clothes pegs and wrap the wool round and round to cover the body.
- 5 Secure the wool by poking the loose end under the rest.
- 6 Draw eyes, ears and a smile or cut out and stick on the face template.

Other Suggestions

- Use real wool collected from a field
- Use real Herdwick wool
- Use coloured wool to create a rainbow flock of sheep









