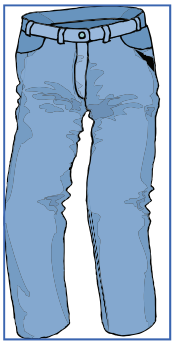
Plants in Your Pants: Cotton

Gossypium hirsutum

denim jeans



smooth cotton fibers

Use this alphabet code to fill in the blanks below and learn more about the plants in your denim pants.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
2	14	6	11	18	25	22	8	3	15	23	4	10	21	5	16	12	24	19	7	1	13	20	17	26	9

Cotton grows in Asia, Africa, Australia and the Americas. It is used in 40% of the world's textiles. Cotton is the main fiber in denim.

The cotton plant is a ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.
7 24 5 16 3 6 2 4 19 8 24 1 14

It needs at least ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ degrees Celsius (65⁰ F) to thrive.
21 3 21 18 7 18 18 21

There are ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ species of cotton.
25 3 25 7 26

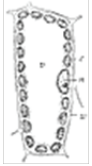
___ ___ ___ ___ species have been cultivated for thousands of years.
25 5 1 24

Cotton's leaves have 3-5 ___ ___ ___ ___ ___. Its creamy flowers turn ___ ___ ___ ___
4 5 14 18 19 16 3 21 23

It takes 100 days for a cotton plant to produce seed pods called ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.
14 5. 4 4 19

They hold seeds protected by fluffy white ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.
25 3 14 18 24

Ninety percent of the white fluff is ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ which is made from
6 18 4 4 1 4 5 19 18



a chain of linked ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ molecules ($C_6H_{10}O_5$). These molecules come
22 4 1 6 5 19 18

from the plant's ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.
6 18 4 4 20 2 4 4 19

Cotton's scientific name is *Gossypium hirsutum*. Its seeds' cells grow tiny hair-like filaments. *What's hirsute mean?*