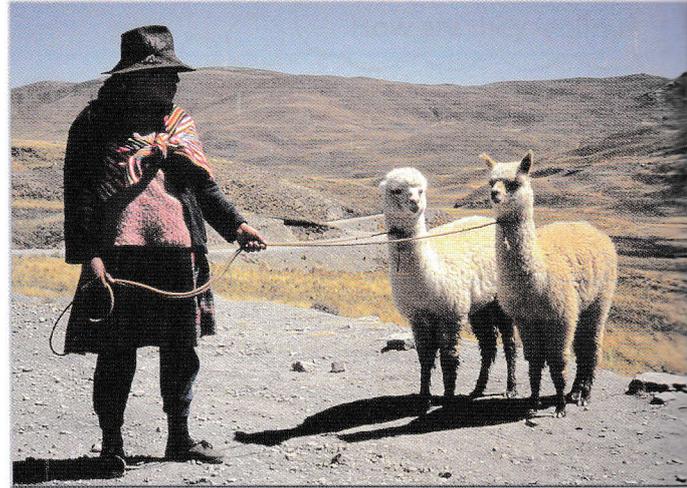
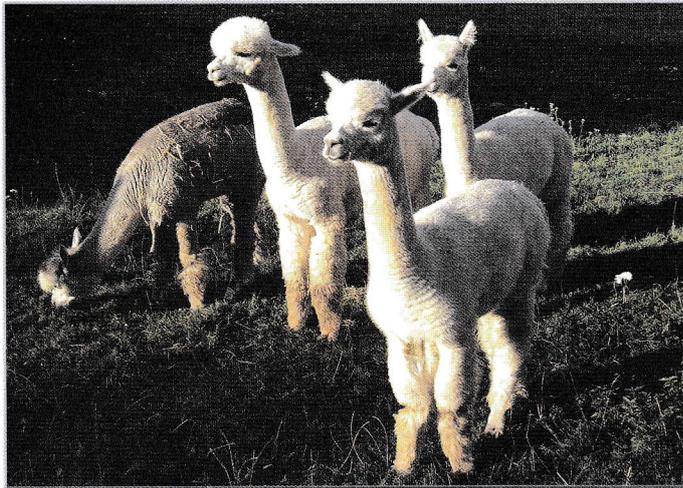


ALPACAS

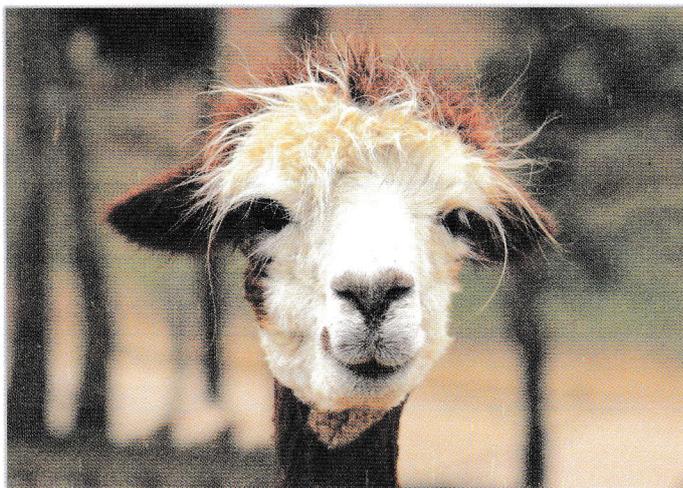


Alpacas have long necks and look like big lambs. They come from Chile and Peru in South America. Alpacas need their warm, thick fleece in winter but it is shorn (cut off) in summer. The fleece is made into socks, jumpers, gloves, hats, scarves and even wedding dresses! Alpacas can live in Ireland – there is an alpaca farm called “Alpacas of Ireland” in County Kildare.

Baby alpacas are called “cria” and can be born any time. If you are thinking of buying alpacas you should buy at least two. They get lonely if they are on their own. Alpacas live for 15 to 20 years.

Alpacas eat grass and hay. They also need water to drink. They don’t make much noise. The sound you are most likely to hear from them is a hum. An alpaca will hum when it is interested in something or when it is worried.

Sometimes alpacas spit when humans or other alpacas get a little too close or are nasty to them. Spitting is their way of saying, “No, I don’t like that. Stop what you are doing!” The only other way alpacas have to defend themselves is to run away.



Try these activities.

A. Answer the questions.

1. What do alpacas eat? _____

2. Where do alpacas live? _____

3. Why should you never keep just one alpaca? _____

4. For how long can alpacas live? _____

5. What are baby alpacas called? _____

B. What did you learn about alpacas? Tick true (✓) or false (x).

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Baby alpacas are called calves. <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Alpacas don't mind cold weather. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Alpacas have short necks. <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Alpacas like company. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Alpacas like to live on their own. <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Alpacas are always white. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Alpaca fleece is used to make hats. <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Alpacas spit when they are angry. <input type="checkbox"/> |

C. Design a hat and scarf set made from alpaca wool.

