Clay and Cotton Sheep

During the mid-1800s children often fashioned their own toys out of clay. Often times these toys resembled animals, especially familiar ones, like farm animals. This set of instructions will show you how to create your very own fuzzy clay sheep!

**Materials**
- Wooden dowel
- Cutting pliers
- Cotton balls
- Air-Dry clay
- Glue
- Markers
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- **Note: you will need an adult to help with this activity**

30-40 minutes for assembly, dry time not included (see brand of clay for dry time)

**Instructions**

1. Collect your materials.

2. First, mark off four 2-inch segments on your dowel. Next you will need to ask an adult to cut these segments with the pliers. You will now have four little wooden legs for your sheep.
3. Next, you will use some of your clay to make a body for the sheep. It is easiest to start with a large oval of clay and slowly work the clay to the shape you want. When molding your sheep, keep in mind that it will be covered in cotton at the end, so imperfections on the body will not show.

4. Your sheep needs some short and fluffy legs! You should add four 1-inch legs to the bottom of your sheep. Try to keep them even.

5. Now you will take your pre-cut dowels and add one into each leg, leaving about 1-inch out of the clay. Make sure you mold the clay around them so they stay in your sheep. The legs should be even enough for the clay sheep to stand on its own.
6. Next make a tear drop shape from the clay and add to the end of your sheep. This will be its new tail.

7. Your sheep needs to take a rest after all that work! Lay it gently on its side and let it dry until it is hardened. For Model Magic clay, it will take around 48-72 hours. For regular Air-Dry clay, it will take 24-48 hours.

8. Now is the time to prep your cotton balls for your sheep’s fluff. Gently take each cotton ball and pull it apart until it is like a small blanket of cotton. Make sure to pull apart enough cotton balls to cover your whole sheep.
9. Your sheep will need some eyes and a nose. Outline his face carefully with a black marker.

10. After you have added his little eyes and nose you can color in your sheep’s face and the wooden parts of his legs. We used a pink marker to give our sheep’s nose a cute pop of color!

11. To begin sticking the fur to your sheep you must add some glue to the body. Be careful not to cover his face! Coating your sheep in glue in sections is the easiest way to begin, so you can add fluff to one section at a time.
12. Add your fluff to the parts of the sheep with glue. You may want to adjust the fluff a little as you stick it down but make sure they aren’t too thin, you don’t want a bald patch on your sheep!

13. Finish up adding all your glue and fluff until your sheep is fluffy as can be! Make sure to let the glue dry a little before continuing to the next step.

14. Now cut a long length of ribbon. Carefully tie it around your sheep’s neck into a big bow. You can then cut off any excess ribbon. Your sheep is now complete and looking good!