

Learn about Alpaca!

Alpacas are a domestic animal from South America, they look similar to the more famous Llama and they have a lot of adaptations in common, but Alpacas are smaller than Llamas. Alpacas are kept as livestock for their wool, to help carry heavy items, and for their meat.

Camel Cousins

Alpacas are one of the domesticated members of the camel (camelid) family, which also includes llamas, guanacos and vicunas from South America, and the Bactrian and Dromedary camels from Asia and Africa. They all have adaptations to help them survive in harsh environments.



Vicuña, Who?

Alpacas were domesticated from wild Vicuñas, a species that still roams the mountainous regions of South America! Neither Alpaca or Vicuña are considered to be endangered in the wild. However, Vicuñas are still threatened by habitat loss and poaching for their very fine wool.

Want to Learn more? Check out these links and activities!

Alpaca Wool Weaving

Alpacas have been important to people groups living in South America for thousands of years. One culture that created beautiful weavings with Alpaca wool were the Inca, in modern day Peru. Color the Alpaca and the Vicuña and then decide how to color your Incan inspired weaving.

