

STIMULUS ACTIVITY


I am an Alpaca



This resource has been developed by:

RECORDING ACTIVITY

What are Alpacas Used For?



The page features four large, rounded rectangular writing areas, each containing five horizontal lines. These areas are arranged in a 2x2 grid around the central image of two alpacas. The top-left and top-right areas are connected by two large orange arrows pointing outwards from the center. Similarly, the bottom-left and bottom-right areas are connected by two large orange arrows pointing outwards from the center.

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LITERACY ACTIVITY

Arriving in Australia

Alpacas are members of the family that includes the guanaco ('hwan-ark-oh'), llama ('ya-mah' or 'lar-mah') and vicuna ('vy-koon-yah'). Collectively, they are known as South American Camelids.

Alpacas originated from South America and were highly valued animals during the Incan civilisation from the 13th until the 16th century. They were essential in providing food and clothing (fleece and leather), and their manure was burnt as a source of fuel for heating and cooking. During this time, alpacas were found in various regions of South America, and alpaca numbers approached 50 million.

During the Spanish invasion in the 16th century, the majority of alpacas were slaughtered and almost extinguished. The remaining alpaca farmers retreated to the high mountain regions (the Andes) where the newly introduced cattle and sheep could not survive. Only the alpacas resilience and tolerance of harsh climate saw their continued existence in the Andes.



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LITERACY ACTIVITY

Arriving in Australia (cont.)

The value of alpacas was rediscovered and again utilised during the 1800s. In the mid-1800s, the entrepreneur Charles Ledger imported the first alpacas to Australia.



The venture was unsuccessful, as the herd was dispersed and eventually died out. Alpacas were first imported into the United States of America and Canada in 1984 and then to Australia (for the second time) and New Zealand in 1989. These countries offer milder climates and, most importantly, the opportunity to apply more advanced farming techniques and better management, which have seen herd numbers prosper in a relatively short time.

Alpaca fibre has many uses, which depend on the fibre's qualities. The most obvious uses are clothing, including items knitted or woven out of fibre, such as gloves, scarves and high-end suits. Alpaca fibre has been used to make household items, such as doonas, bed underlays and carpets. It can be used to fill pillows or dog beds and as wadding in various jackets. Less common uses of alpaca fibre include mask filters (see 'fair air fire mask' link) and insulation for homes or sheds.

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MAPPING ACTIVITY

Arriving in Australia



1. Click on the link to access Google Earth.



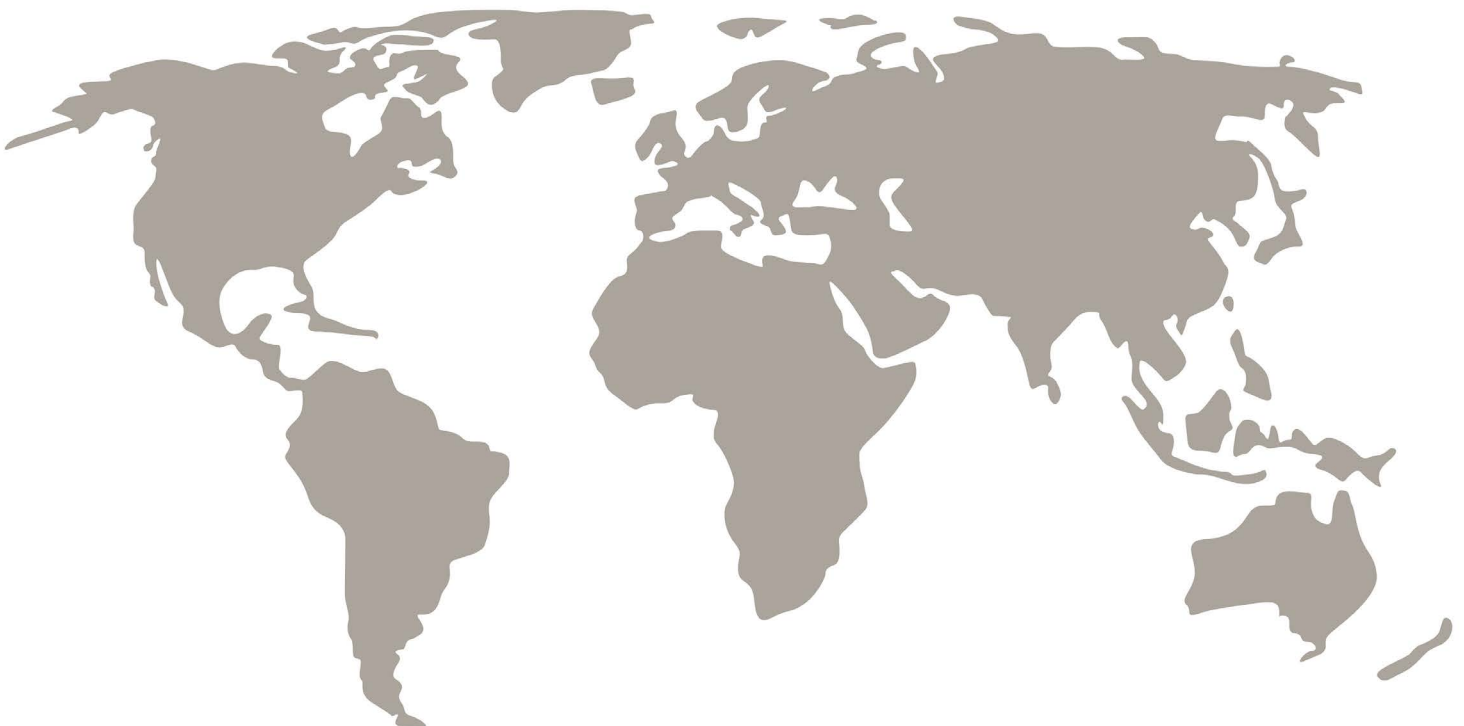
2. Type 'Chile' into the search bar.



3. Name the continent where Chile is located.



4. Mark Chile's location on the map with an 'X'.



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MAPPING ACTIVITY

Arriving in Australia (cont.)



5. Click on the ruler icon, then click on the red pin, assigning it to Chile on the Google Earth map (to start the measuring tool).



6. Use the mouse or keypad to turn the Earth and locate the area where you live (e.g. Warialda, NSW). You may need to use the ‘+’ tool at the bottom right of the screen to zoom in and find your nearest town/suburb. Click and pin this location with the mouse or keypad (a yellow line should have tracked the trip).



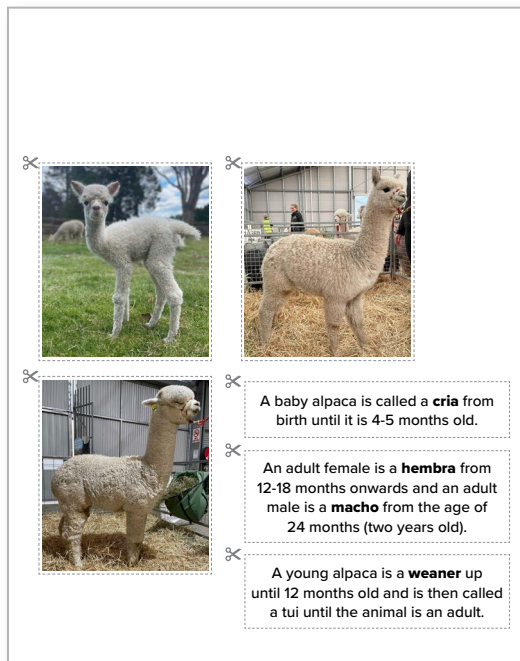
7. At the top right of the screen, the distance from Chile to your location will be calculated (select kilometres as the units).

8. The distance from Chile to where I live is:

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Alpacas Grow and Change – Materials

Collect the following materials:



A baby alpaca is called a **cria** from birth until it is 4-5 months old.

An adult female is a **hembra** from 12-18 months onwards and an adult male is a **macho** from the age of 24 months (two years old).

A young alpaca is a **weaner** up until 12 months old and is then called a **tui** until the animal is an adult.

1 x template
(see following page)

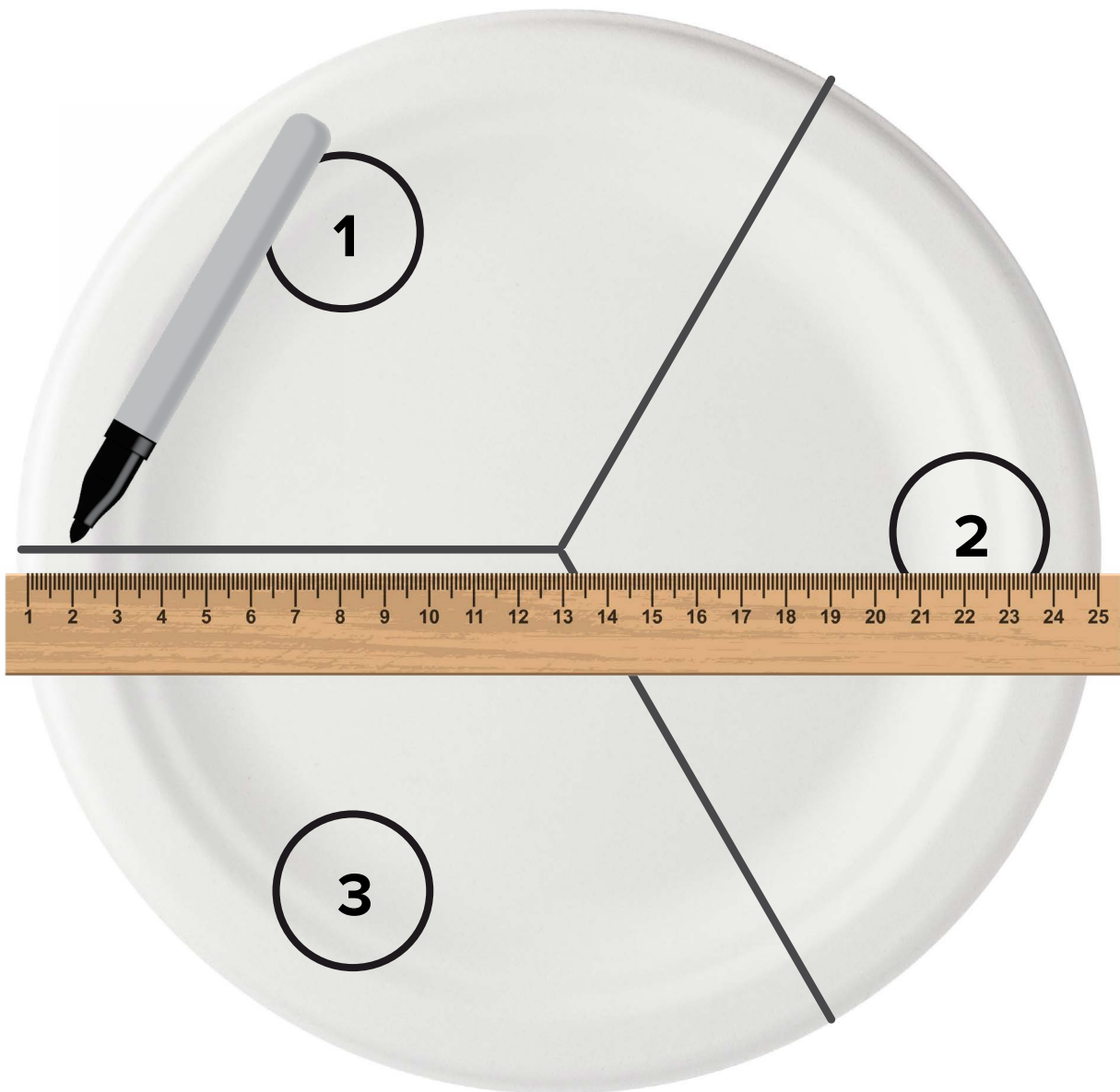


This resource has been developed by:

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Alpacas Grow and Change – Instructions

Step 1 – Use a ruler and a marker to divide the plate into thirds like the diagram below. Number each section from 1–3.



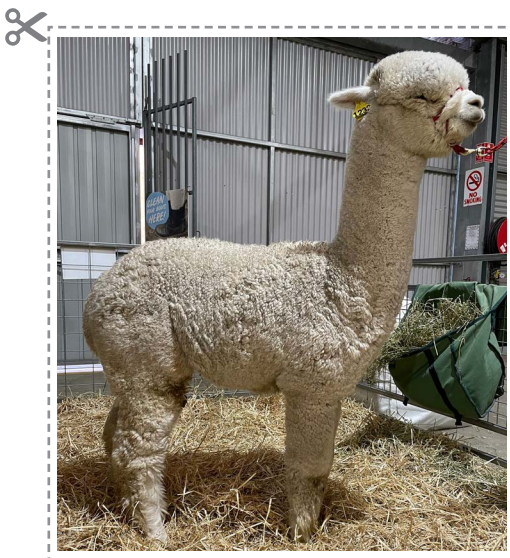
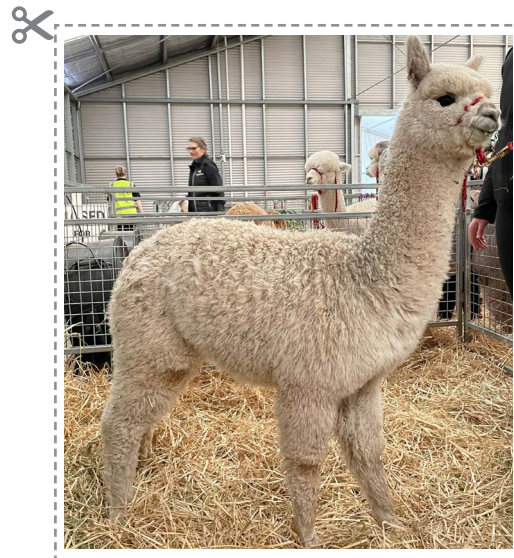
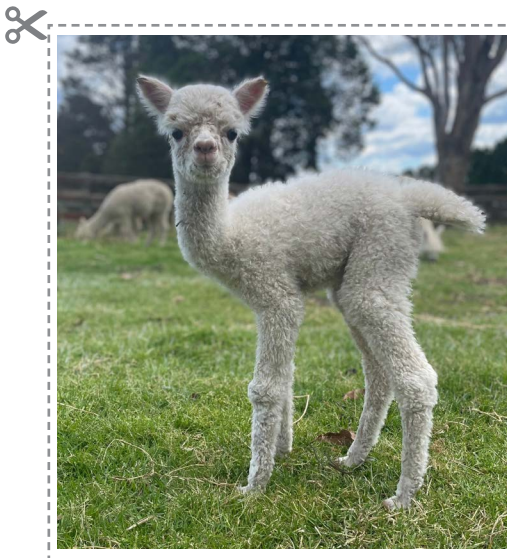
This resource has been developed by:

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Alpacas Grow and Change

– Instructions (cont.)

Step 2 – Use scissors to neatly cut the words and images from below. Paste them on the paper plate in the correct spaces, showing how an alpaca changes from a baby to an adult.



A baby alpaca is called a **cria** from birth until it is 4-5 months old.

An adult female is a **hembra** from 12–18 months onwards and an adult male is a **macho** from the age of 24 months (two years old).

A young alpaca is a **weaner** up until 12 months old and is then called a **tui** until the animal is an adult.

This resource has been developed by:

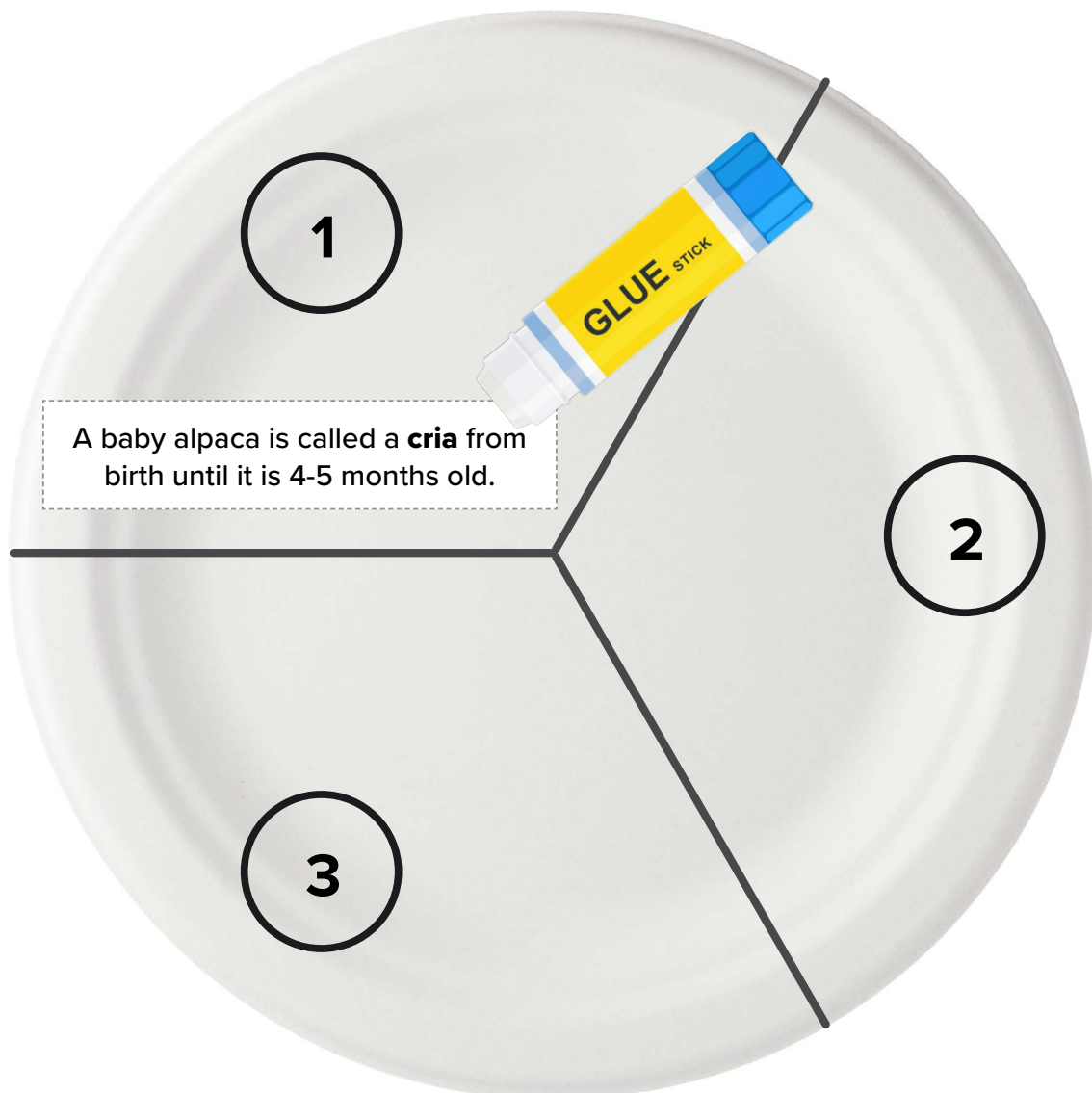
CRAFT ACTIVITY

Alpacas Grow and Change

– Instructions (cont.)

Step 3 – Paste the descriptions and matching images into the sections of the paper plate, showing how an alpaca changes from a baby to an adult. Stick the pictures in the following order:

- 1 – cria
- 2 – weaner and tui
- 3 – adult hembra and macho



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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Alpacas Grow and Change – Answers

1



A baby alpaca is called a **cria** from birth until it is 4-5 months old.

2



A young alpaca is a **weaner** up until 12 months old and is then called a **tui** until the animal is an adult.

3



An adult female is a **hembra** from 12-18 months onwards and an adult male is a **macho** from the age of 24 months (two years old).

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MODELLING ACTIVITY

Alpaca Data Sheet



0 – 6 months

Cria (cree-ah)

Height – 70cm

Length – 46cm

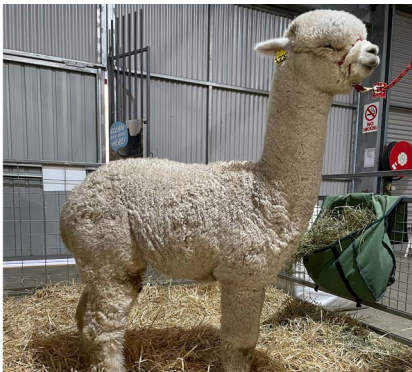


6 – 12 months

Weaner

Height – 117cm

Length – 78cm



12 months to maturity

Tui (too-ee)

Height – 125cm

Length – 83cm



2 years to 15 – 20 years (Males)
1 year to 15 – 20 years (Females)

Machos – Male

Hembra – Female

Height – 138cm

Length – 93cm

This resource has been developed by:

CALCULATION ACTIVITY

How Fast Does a Cria Grow?



Use the information in the columns below to work out how heavy a young alpaca is each month until it reaches 6 months.

Add the weight gains to calculate the total weight of the alpaca for each month.

| Time (months) | Weight gain (kgs) | Total weight (kgs) |
|---------------|-------------------|---|
| 0 | Birth weight 6 | 6 |
| 1 | Gains 6 | $6 + 6 = \underline{\quad}$ |
| 2 | Gains 6 | $\underline{\quad} + 6 = \underline{\quad}$ |
| 3 | Gains 5 | $\underline{\quad} + 5 = \underline{\quad}$ |
| 4 | Gains 5 | $\underline{\quad} + 5 = \underline{\quad}$ |
| 5 | Gains 4 | $\underline{\quad} + 4 = \underline{\quad}$ |
| 6 | Gains 4 | $\underline{\quad} + 4 = \underline{\quad}$ |

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