

Global Wool Map: Common Sheep Breeds and Their Journeys

The map highlights the geographic origins, wool characteristics, and global distribution of sheep breeds, showcasing how environmental factors and breeding have shaped these iconic animals over time.

Columbia: This was the first sheep breed to originate in the United States. Columbia wool is made of fine fibers and can be white or brown. Micron count: 23-31 microns.



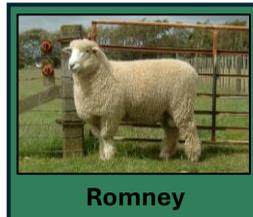
Columbia

Suffolk: This breed was developed in England and is primarily known for its meat production. However, it also has medium-coarse wool fleece, valued for its durability. It is common in the United Kingdom and the United States. Micron count: 25-33 microns.

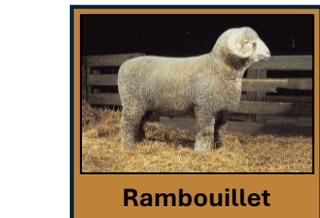


Suffolk

Romney: Originating in England's Romney Marsh, this breed produces versatile wool ideal for apparel, felting, rugs, upholstery, and crafts. Prominent in the U.S. and New Zealand, Romney thrives in damp conditions. Micron count: 29-37.



Romney



Rambouillet

Rambouillet: Originated in France. It produces fine wool that is great for insulating and is found predominantly in France and the United States. Known for their hardiness and their ability to graze western rangelands. Micron count: 18-24 microns.



Cormo

Cormo: Originating in Australia, this breed is known for its fluffy wool, ideal for lace patterns and gentle-touch baby clothes. Micron count: 17-23 microns.



Junin

Junin: This breed originated in the high-altitude regions of the Peruvian Andes and have adapted well to the harsh conditions of the highlands, including cold temperatures, high altitudes, and rugged terrain. They have a dense fleece and robust build.



Merino

Merino: Known for its fine and soft wool. It originated in Spain and is still prominent in countries like Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, and South Africa. Micron count: 11.5-26 microns.



Hampshire

Hampshire: Another breed with origins in England, Hampshire is one of the most popular sheep breeds in the world. Hampshire fleece is known to be strong and springy. Micron count: 24-33 microns.



Shetland

Shetland: This breed, native to the Shetland Islands of Scotland, produces fine wool with a wide color range, from white to brown to black. Shetland sheep are also found in North America and Australia. Micron count: 20-30 microns.



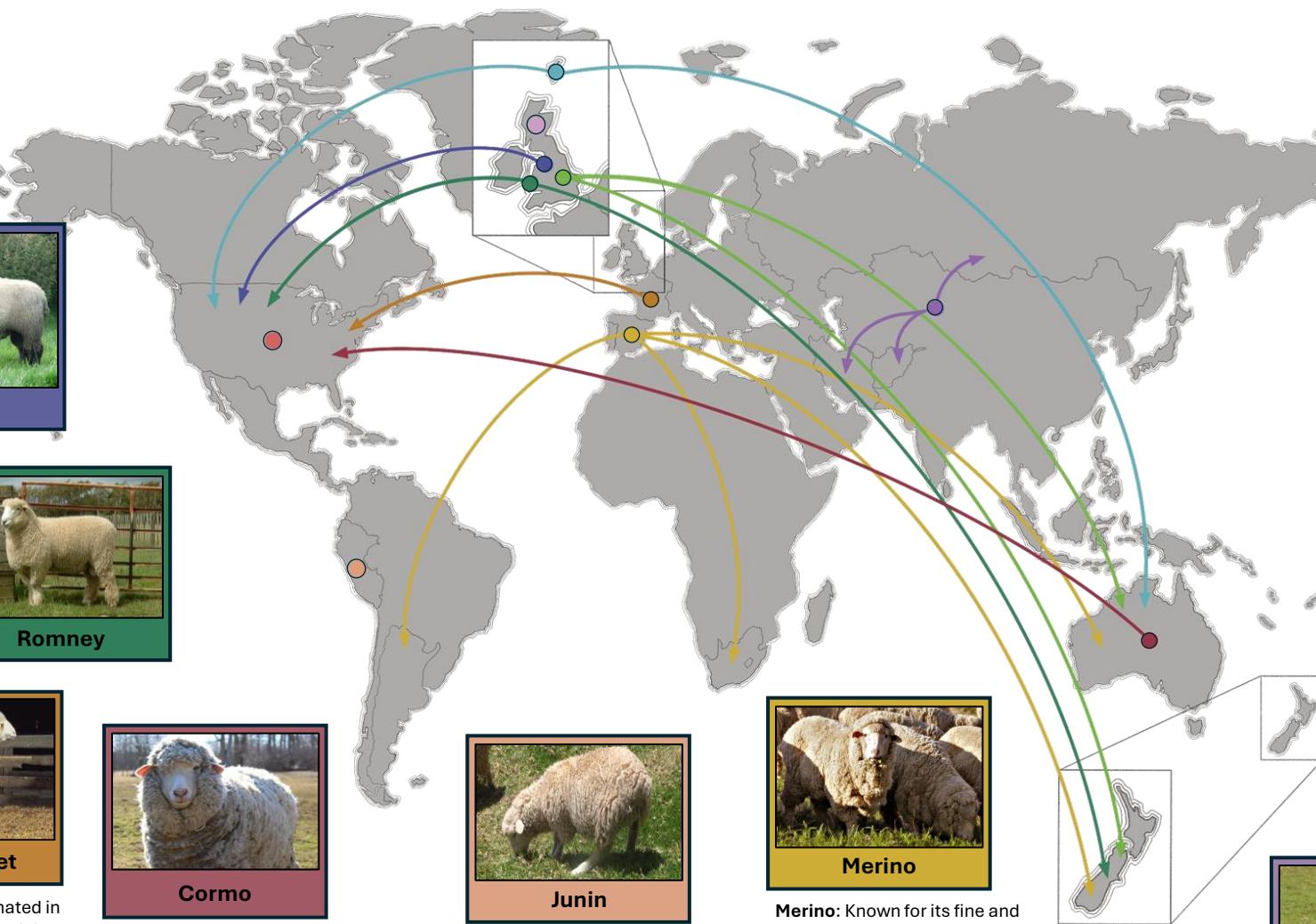
Border Leicester

Border Leicester: This breed originated in England and is renowned for its long, lustrous wool with good spinning properties. It is prominent in the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand. Micron count: 29.25-40 microns.



Karakul

Karakul: This breed originated in Central Asia and is prominent in countries like Afghanistan, Iran, and Russia. It is valued for its uniquely strong wool fibers. Karakul sheep are also known to be a resilient breed that can withstand harsh, arid climates. Micron count: 25-36 microns.



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Artwork by Emma L. Knutson. Find more of her work on Instagram @emmaginations.art or contact her at emmaginations.art@gmail.com.



Scan to explore an interactive ArcGIS Story Map on sheep breeds and their wool!



Scan for detailed curriculum and references on sheep breeds and wool.