



Backstrap Weaving

Art of Guatemala

Rebecca Hinson

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Dedicated to Pedro Andres Juan and Delia Castro
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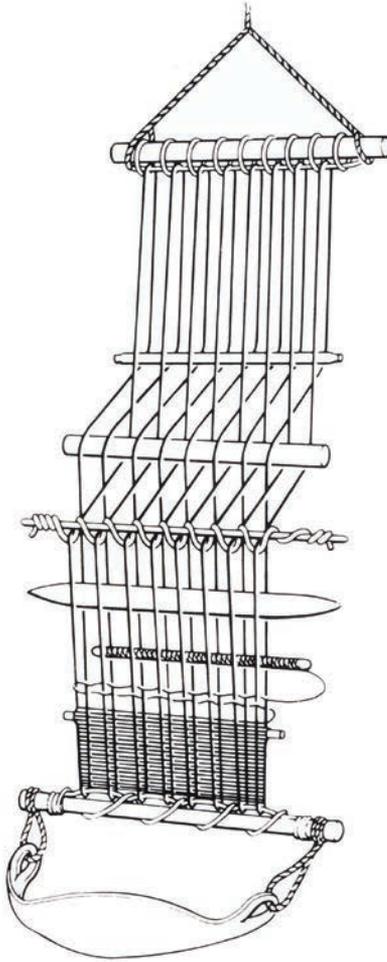
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The Maya have been weaving with the backstrap loom for 1200 years.



The weaver wears a strap around his or her back and ties the other end to a tree outdoors, or to a hook indoors.



To create a magnificent weaving, the Maya create their own yarns and special dyes, which stay bright forever.



The people herd their sheep to the hillside each day to graze.



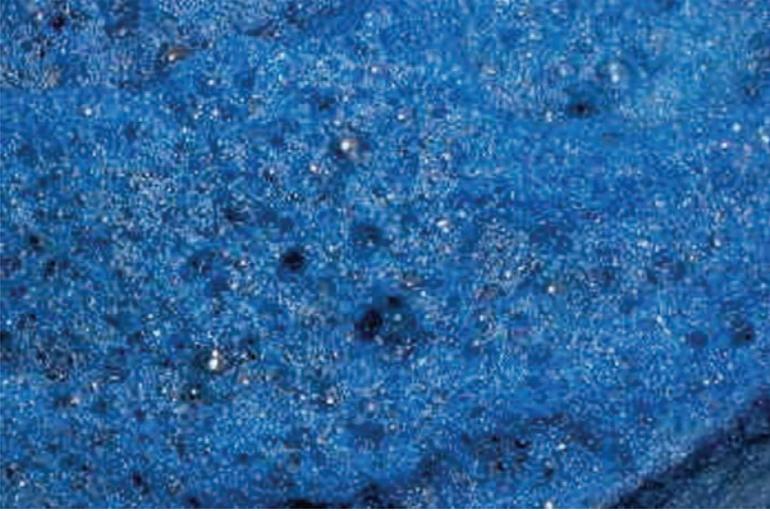
After the fleece of the sheep grows, they trim it.



Next, the Maya twist the fleece fibers together to form yarn, which they wind into a ball.



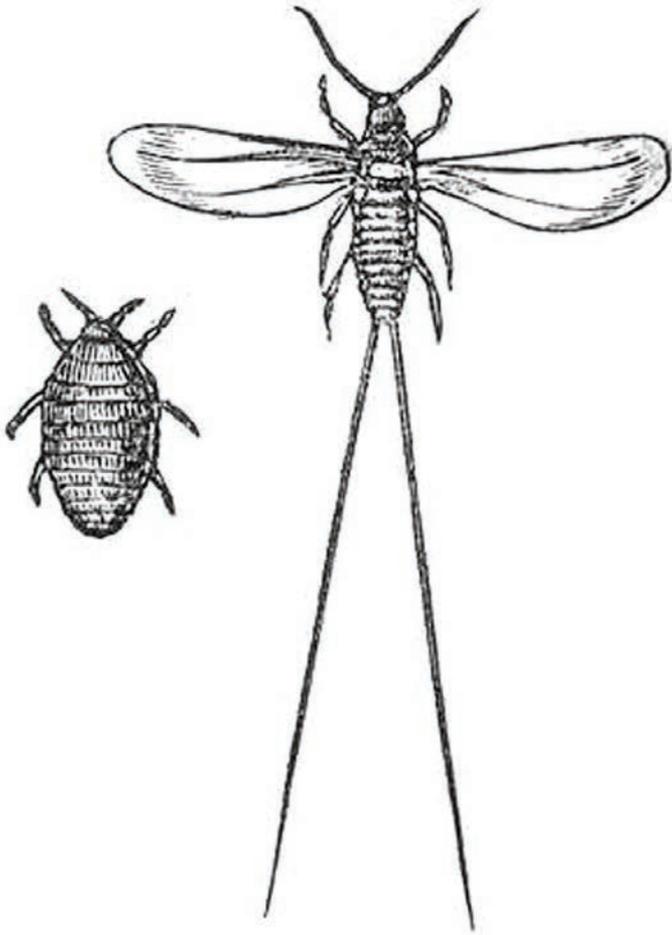
**They pick the leaves
of the indigo plant,**



tear them into little pieces,
and cook them to yield blue
dye



to make blue yarn.



The Maya collect cochineal bugs



by brushing them off cacti.