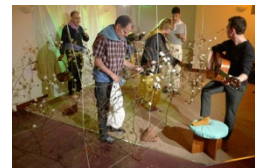
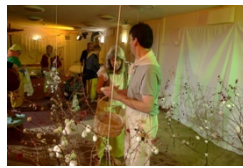
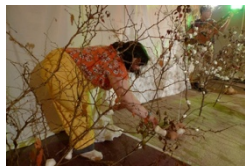


Cotton (Baggy cotton trousers and coloured neck scarves)

Environment 2 rows of cotton bushes filled with cotton wool balls, white pillowslips and baskets for picking. Shack in corner with rope pulley and basket for weighing, gold chocolate coins. Spinning machine as mangle. White cotton muslins/pillowslips and sheets. Washboard and scrape percussion instruments, guiros etc. Washing lines across space, pegs. Harmonicas



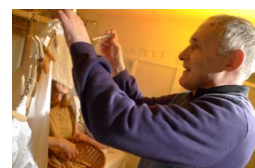
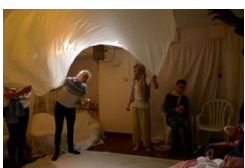
Picking cotton Take bags/baskets and working your way up and down rows, pick the cotton balls off the twiggy branches. Help each other, pick high and low down, throw and catch, feel the texture of the soft fluffy cotton wool balls, dip your fingers/toes into the softness. Sing a happy work song as you go.



Weighing and Wages Put your bag into the weighing basket and pull the rope to lift it off the ground. Be careful you don't let go or it will fall! See the basket swing to and fro, make it rise and drop, help your friends who find it hard to pull on their own. Enjoy your gold chocolate coin wages.



Scrub-a Dub Using the washboard, initiate a 'washing' rhythm, that everyone can join in with using a variety of percussion. Wash the cotton, shake out the big sheets and see them billow in the wind, run underneath and make them flap and fly. Find the pegs and hang the cotton out to dry on washing lines, as electric fans make them dance in the breeze. When work is over relax on cool, clean cotton playing harmonicas.



Observations Picking the cotton was a greatly enjoyed, repetitive, achievable activity. Baskets easier than bags for some. Feeling the soft, fluffy textures, holding the baskets, enjoyed by those who couldn't pick. The weighing section added a comedy element to proceedings, but also encouraged cooperation and support for each other. Wages gleefully received. 'Washing' became more about percussion than the activity, but gave a good lift to the dynamic. Pegging on the line was a very focused, easily understood/modeled activity.

