

Fabric Trivia

- 2500 to 3000 silkworm cocoons are needed to make one yard of silk.
- Flax was the earliest fabric used for clothing.
- Nylon is human-made and became popular in the 1930's.
- Cotton is the most commonly used textile in the world.
- Rayon was invented in 1910 and called "artificial silk."
- Both bamboo and hemp have antibacterial qualities.



Did You Know...?

- Angora wool can come from goats or rabbits.
- Azlon is a textile made from plant protein which comes from corn, soybeans, peanuts, or milk.
- More than 200 pairs of jeans can be made from one bale of cotton.



Joke Time

What did the fabric manufacturer name his two daughters?



Joke Answer:

Polly and Esther

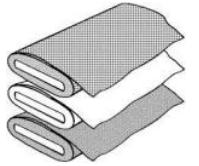


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If you were going to start your own company designing and making clothing, what would you need to know?



You would need to know the properties of different fabrics and the fibers those fabrics are made from. Fabrics are divided into two groups: natural fabrics and synthetic fabrics. Both types of fabrics have advantages and disadvantages.

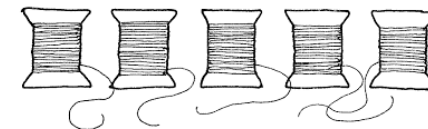
Natural fabrics are made from **natural fibers**. Natural fibers are either plant based or come from animals. Cotton, linen, ramie, hemp and jute come from plants. Leather, silk, and wool come from animals. Leather fabric comes from the skins of animals. Wool comes from sheep, alpacas, vicuñas or goats. Silk comes from the cocoons of silkworms.

Some advantages of natural fabrics include being more absorbent, durable, and earth friendly compared to synthetic fabrics. A disadvantage is that some natural fabrics like leather and silk are very expensive. Vicuna wool is one of the most expensive fabrics in the world. The most expensive natural fabric is cashmere which is made from the fur of a goat.

Synthetic fabrics are made from **human-made fibers**. These human-made fibers are made from chemicals. Synthetic fabrics include: polyester, rayon, spandex, acrylic, microfiber and nylon.

One advantage of synthetic fabrics is that they are cheaper to make and less expensive to buy. Also, they are stain-resistant and often water proof or water resistant. One disadvantage is that some synthetic fabrics burn very easily. In 1953, the Flammable Fabrics Act was passed by Congress. It required clothing items to be made from flame-resistant fabric. In 1967, the Act was updated to include furniture fabrics.

So, before you begin the process of designing and making clothing, be sure you know the different types of fabrics and their advantages and disadvantages.



How Well Did You Read?

1. Name the two groups that fabrics are divided into.

2. Where do natural fibers come from?

3. Give two examples of natural fabrics.

4. List some of the advantages and disadvantages of natural fabrics.

5. Where do synthetic fibers come from?

6. Give two examples of synthetic fabrics.

7. List 1 of the advantages and 1 disadvantage of synthetic fabrics.



Labels Tell the Story

To learn the fabric used to make an item of clothing just read the label. Labels are usually found inside the garment, near the neck or at the bottom. Labels will state the fabric used, country of origin, and how to clean the garment.



Look at the labels for three pieces of your clothing and complete the following table.

Clothing Item	Fabric	Country of Origin	Cleaning Instructions

