

PROPERTIES OF NATURAL FIBERS

Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade: _____

Instructions: Using your notes, which characteristic is an advantage and which is a disadvantage.

Characteristics of Cotton

- Quite strong, even stronger, when wet. _____
- Comfortable and cool. _____
- Natural cotton creases badly and can shrink. _____
- Hardwearing and accepts dyes easily. _____
- Flammable _____
- Not damaged by chemicals. _____
- When left damp it becomes stained with mildew. _____
- Not damaged by moths. _____
- Will absorb moisture. _____
- Poor quality is stiffened during manufacture. _____
- It is easy to wash. _____
- Cheap to buy and smooth. _____



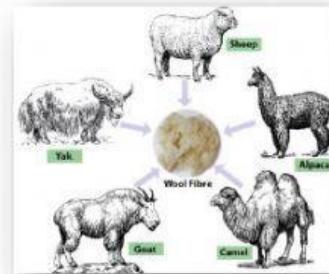
Characteristics of Linen

- A strong fiber which wears well. _____
- It's expensive to buy. _____
- Linen fibers do not trap air so this fabric is cool to wear and very suitable for hot climate. _____
- Wrinkles unless treated _____
- Weakened by mildew. _____
- Washes well. _____
- May show wear at the edges and fold: _____
- Does not accept dyes: _____
- Is not damaged by boiling water, detergents, acids or hot irons: _____
- Shrinks unless treated: _____
- Comfortable: _____
- Natural linen creases: _____
- Frays easily: _____



Characteristics of Wool

- The scales on the fibers trap air, which keeps the body warm. _____
- Will shrink with continual washing. _____
- Weakened by sunlight. _____
- Absorbs moisture and sweat. _____
- Resilient and wears well. _____
- Weakens and stretches when wet. _____
- Is elastic and will regain its shape after being stretched. _____
- Untreated wool can be damaged by moth. _____
- Comfortable to wear. It is soft to the touch and is made in different weights to suit all purposes. _____
- Is non-inflammable; it will burn but will not burst into flames. _____
- Wool is expensive. _____
- Easily damaged by chemicals. _____



Characteristics of Silk

- Expensive fabric to buy. _____
- Will dye easily. _____
- Is elastic and keeps its shape well. _____
- Is damaged by chemicals. _____
- Strong yet lightweight and comfortable and wears well. _____
- Is damaged by heat. _____
- Soft and smooth to the touch and drapes well. _____
- Weakened by sunlight. _____
- Has an attractive sheen or luster. _____
- Is non-inflammable. Will burn but does not burst in flames. _____
- Both warm and cool to wear. Is absorbent and will soak up moisture and sweat. _____
- Is easily damaged by the salt in perspiration. _____

