NATURAL FABRICS

Four Natural Fibers

Name: _____

QUESTIONS

1.Name two types of wool fabrics.
_____ and _____

2.Which kind of silk would be used in an inexpensive blouse?
_____

3. Why does linen fabric wrinkle less now than before?
_____

4. Which kind of natural fiber is used to make cambric?
_____

5. Which kind of natural fiber is used to make poplin?
_____

6. Which fabric is best for making a winter coat? Why?
_____

7. What makes one type of cotton fabric smoother than the other?
_____

8. Which natural fabric drapes best?
_____

9. Name two natural fibers that come from animals.
_____ and _____

10. Name two natural fibers that come from plants.
_____ and _____

Unweighted silk		cotton and linen	
The length		wool is warm	
silk and wool		woolens and worsteds	
cotton	silk	linen	special finishes

Fabrics can be divided into two groups: **natural and synthetic.** Synthetic are also called man-made fabrics. The natural fabrics come from plants or animals. Synthetics are made from chemicals obtained from coal, air, water, sulfur, and natural gas. This activity is about the natural fibers and the fabrics made from them.

Wool

Wool usually comes from the hair and fibers of sheep. Cashmere, mohair, camel's hair, alpaca, Shetland and vicuna are other types of wool fabrics. Wool makes warm absorbent and wrinkle-resistant fabrics. There are two types of wool fabrics: woolens and worsteds. Woolens are made from both long and short fibers. They are soft, wrinkle-resistant and do not hold a crease well. Worsteds are made from long wool fibers. They are smoother and more durable than woolens and take a sharp crease. They become shiny with wear. Gabardine, flannel, and tweeds are popular wool fabrics. Many garments are also made from wool knits.

Cotton

Cotton comes from the cotton plant. The fabric is absorbent, strong, and comfortable to wear. The length of the cotton fiber determines the quality of the fabric. Long fibers make the cloth fine and smooth. Short fibers produce a coarser cloth. Batiste, broadcloth, poplin, and denim are some examples of cotton fabrics.

Linen

Linen is made from the fibers of the flax plant. Because it is absorbent and cool, it is popular for summer clothing. The characteristic thin and thick look of uneven yarns gives it a distinctive beauty. Untreated linen tends to wrinkle excessively. Today most linens have special finishes so that they do not wrinkle easily. Dress linen, cambric, and butcher's linen are three types of this fabric.

Silk

Silk comes from the cocoon of the cultivated silk worm. The fabric is lustrous, smooth, strong, and drapes well. Weighted silk fabric contains metallic salts. It is not as expensive unweighted silks but does not wear as well. If a label reads 'silk', 'pure silk', or 'all silk', the material does not contain metallic weighting. High quality silk fabrics are expensive compared to other fabrics and usually must be dry cleaned.

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